

Prime minister returns from Bonn

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai returned home Tuesday from Bonn where he took part in official talks with His Majesty King Hussein held Monday with West German leaders and attended part of a meeting of the European Community (EC) foreign ministers. Rifai joined King Hussein in Paris, the second leg of King Hussein's current tour of European countries, and took part in the King's talks with French officials. During the King's visit to Paris, Rifai and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac signed an agreement under which Jordan will buy a number of defensive fighter planes from France. The talks the King held in Paris also covered Franco-Jordanian cooperation in military affairs. The King's tour, which has taken him to Rome, the Vatican, France and West Germany, aims at presenting Jordan's view and that of the Arabs on the recent political developments in the region, including the Middle East conflict and the current uprising in the occupied territories. Rifai was received upon arrival by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Theouan Hindawi, Cabinet members and senior officials.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية والبيئية «الراي»

S. Yemen restores ties with Egypt

CAIRO (R) — South Yemen restored full diplomatic relations with Egypt Tuesday after a rift of nearly a decade, the two governments announced. "Keen on achieving Arab solidarity and using all potentials and efforts to serve the goals of Arab Nation, the two countries agreed to restore full diplomatic relations starting today," a joint statement said. South Yemen broke ranks with Arab hardliners in restoring relations, taking to 16 the number of Arab states which have formal ties with Egypt. South Yemen is the 11th Arab state to restore links with Cairo since the Amman Arab summit last November freed members to decide the issue for themselves. "This step is likely to increase the effectiveness of joint Arab action," Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters. Syria, Libya, Algeria and Lebanon are now the only Arab countries not to have full relations with Egypt. But Algeria and Lebanon have semi-official ties through "interest sections" in Cairo working under flag of other countries. Egypt remains suspended from the Arab League. Aden's decision surprised many Egyptians as it is considered to belong to the hardline Arab camp.

Volume 13 Number 3702

AMMAN WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1988, JAMADA AL THANI 21, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Hamzeh in Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh arrived in Damascus Tuesday for talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Iyad Al Shatti on bilateral cooperation in health-related fields. The two ministers are expected to review a Jordanian-Syrian health agreement signed in 1975 and discuss an exchange of health expertise and promote bilateral cooperation. Hamzeh's meetings in Damascus are expected to last until Thursday.

France, Kuwait discuss arms deal

KUWAIT (R) — A senior French Aerospace official discussed arms sales to Kuwait and developments in the Gulf with Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Tuesday, diplomatic sources said. Jacques Mitterrand, president of the Office General de l'Air (OGA) which oversees exports of French arms and aircraft, earlier met Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Kuwait has been looking at French, U.S., British and Egyptian anti-missile systems. France has proposed its Crotale surface-to-air missile which it has already sold to Saudi Arabia.

Egyptian military team visits UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Senior Egyptian armed forces officers are visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to discuss military cooperation in the second such visit to a Gulf Arab state since many Arab nations resumed ties with Cairo last year. Naval Forces Commander-in-Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Sharif Al Sadeq said on arrival Monday the trip was to boost military ties.

Turkish deputy foreign minister in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir arrived in Athens Tuesday on the first visit by a Turkish official since Turkey and Greece agreed to improve relations last month. Kandemir will hold talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and meet Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, a government spokesman said.

U.N. chief reasserts control in Namibia

ACCRA (AP) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says independence for Namibia remains a top priority and the world body must reassert its control over the South African-ruled territory. "I still consider myself as the administrator of the territory," Perez de Cuellar said at a news conference Monday night opening a six-nation African tour. He said the inactivity of the Western contact group — five nations who sought to negotiate Namibian independence — means "the U.N. must assert its right over Namibia."

Iran claims downing Iraqi jets

NICOSIA (R) — Iran claimed Tuesday its pilots shot down three Iraqi Mirage jets Tuesday and chased off four others which tried to attack shipping. Military authorities in Baghdad made no reports of dogfights or air raids Tuesday. Over the weekend Iraqi jets damaged a supertanker and a cargo vessel in attacks on Iranian shipping.

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King: Palestinian revolt a historic event for world to seek Mideast peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

BONN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday described the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza as a "watershed, an historic event" that would force the international community to place the Palestinian problem and Israel's occupation of Arab lands in their proper perspective and seek peace in the Middle East.

Addressing the German Society for Foreign Affairs in Bonn, the King said the Israeli leadership "does not seem to have recognised the reality of what was actually happening in the occupied territories." According to Israeli officials, the uprising came as a surprise, the King said. "From our perspective, we are surprised that they did not know any better. What, may we ask, did the Israeli leadership expect after 20 years of occupation? Did it expect the Palestinians simply to accept the status quo? Did it really believe that it could pursue a policy of colonialism with impunity in a manifestly post-colonial era and then expect the Palestinians to accept it as a fact of life? Or did it regard the

placency and place the Palestinian issue as a whole, and the problem of occupation in particular, in their proper perspective."

"The truth is that the time factor has made the problem more complex," the King said. "Time has bred a generation of Palestinians who see the Israelis as nothing but ruthless occupiers. It has placed the Jewish state in an ideological and moral dilemma. Will Israel become a bi-national state? Or will it become another South Africa?"

His Majesty deplored Israel's transformation of the Middle East conflict as a domestic American issue subject to election considerations. "In doing this, the Israeli leadership played the comfortable role of deflecting the United States from the course it is expected to take as a superpower with a special responsibility both for resolving conflicts by peaceful means and upholding the principles of the United Nations and international law."

But, the King said, "even here Israel and its supporters on the American scene have failed to realise that their position was untenable in the long run. For in the final analysis, they have made

(Continued on page 4)

105 expelled Palestinians head for 'ship of return' in high spirits

By Najwa Najjar

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One hundred and five Palestinian deportees and 22 other supporters and journalists left Amman Tuesday to board the "ship of return" heading for Haifa, aiming to exercise their right to return to the West Bank and Gaza and to support the ongoing Palestinian uprising.

The voyage, scheduled to begin at the Greek port of Piraeus Wednesday and reach Haifa on or around Feb. 15, is carrying several messages to the world, Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh told a press conference before their departure.

Sayeh who is also president of the Jerusalem Higher Council, called this trip "a nationalist and political idea" to refocus world attention on the Palestinians' inalienable rights of return and of self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state on their liberated soil.

"The Palestinian deportees have a natural right to return to their homeland," said Sayeh, 76, who was the first "official" deportee in 1967 (acknowledged as deportee by the Israeli occupation authorities). Sayeh referred to recent resolutions passed by the United Nations Security

Council condemning Israel's policy of expelling Palestinians from the occupied territories and calling on Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention on treatment of people under occupation.

The Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, as prohibited, regardless of their motives."

This trip is also a message of

solidarity with the Palestinian uprising, and a means to link with our courageous brethren resisting occupation, so that the Palestinian people can establish a future state on their land under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," said Sayeh.

"Not even stones"

"It is a peaceful trip home to achieve just peace and to live in safety, far from occupation,"

(Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian mother bids farewell to her son upon his departure from Amman Tuesday for Athens to board the "ship of return" to Palestine. (Photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Egypt welcomes EC condemnation of Israel

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt declared its support Tuesday for a European Community (EC) statement deploring Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza. "Egypt welcomes the statement... and its condemnation of repressive and illegitimate action in the occupied Arab territories," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters.

Meeting in Bonn, the community's 12 foreign ministers Monday strongly condemned Israeli policies against Palestinian protesters over the past two months.

Full text of statement

Following is the full text of the EC foreign ministers' statement issued Monday:

1. The foreign ministers of the Twelve had a thorough discussion on the situation in the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They expressed their profound concern at the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories.
2. The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable. The foreign ministers again stressed their conviction that the only solution is by means of a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as proposed by the Twelve in their 1980 Venice Declaration and their subsequent declaration.
3. The Twelve reaffirm their strong support for an international peace conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with their 23 February and 13 July 1987 declarations, as the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned. They took note of the wide support given to such a conference and urge all parties to work for

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli troops murder 2 more Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two more Palestinians were killed Tuesday in the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and Arab demonstrators continued anti-occupation protests despite widespread curfews and sieges imposed by the Israeli army.

A Palestinian boy was found dead beside a street barricade in a West Bank village and a Gaza boy died in an Israeli hospital after being beaten on the head.

In both cases the Palestine Press Service (PPS) accused Israeli troops of killing the Arabs but army spokesmen would only say the incidents were under investigation.

News of the death of 17-year-old Khader Tarazi in Beersheba's Soroka hospital sparked intensified protests in Gaza City.

Arabs stoned troops and passing vehicles in central streets but were dispersed by soldiers wielding batons and firing tear-gas, witnesses said.

Tarazi was the third Gazan to die this week of wounds apparently inflicted by beating.

The PPS said Nabil Lateef Mahmoud Abu Khalil was shot in the chest by soldiers in the village of Attil, near Tulkarem.

Tuesday's deaths brought to 52 the unofficial death toll compiled



Israeli soldiers force a young Palestinian girl to remove barricades in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip

by Reuters of Palestinians killed in the last two months.

Demonstrations continued in several towns and refugee camps in the West Bank, especially in Arab Jerusalem, but there were no casualties reported from gunfire by midday.

The Israeli army said the inci-

dents were mainly rock-throwing and tyre burning in the towns of Bethlehem, Halhoul and Samoua as well as the Qalandia and Aida refugee camps.

Arab sources said there were also protests in Dahariya and Sa'ir villages as well as Amari refugee camp.

Police made several arrests in the Abu Dis, Azariya, Silwan and Sur Bahir districts of Arab Jerusalem as well as within the walled Old City where they fired tear-gas.

An Israeli bus was stoned just

(Continued on page 3)

Murphy in Israel after talks with Mubarak

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived Tuesday after talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In a fresh American effort to promote Middle East peace talks, Murphy has met Saudi and Syrian leaders but failed to persuade Damascus to accept U.S. ideas on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. proposals are believed to centre on limited "self-rule" for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Political analysts doubt if the Americans will be able to find a peace formula acceptable to both Arab states and Israel.

Israel Radio reported that the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, rejected Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' suggestion that the two meet jointly with Murphy.

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said Murphy's mission was to bring about "early face-to-face negotiations to resolve the problems" between Israel and the Arabs.

"We hope a revitalised process will lead promptly to substantial change in the West Bank and Gaza and, in the longer term, to a broader political settlement," Redman said last week.

Before he left Cairo Tuesday, Murphy urged all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to work seriously for a Middle East peace settlement.

(Continued on page 5)

Cordovez says Afghan accord is near, sets March 2 talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez said Tuesday the Pakistani and Afghan governments had virtually agreed on a time-table for Soviet troops to leave Afghanistan.

He told a news conference the next round of the U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva had been set for March 2 to conclude the settlement ending the nine-year-old Afghan guerrilla war.

Cordovez's statement at the end of his 21-day shuttle mission to the region, followed announcements by Soviet and Afghan leaders that the troops could withdraw within 10 months beginning on May 15 if the settlement was reached in Geneva.

Pakistan said Tuesday it would only sign an Afghan peace agreement at the Geneva talks when a neutral interim government was set up in Kabul.

Foreign Office Minister of State Zain Noorani also said at a news conference that Pakistan wanted a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within eight or nine months.

Noorani said: "Pakistan will sign the Geneva agreement with the legitimate government of Afghanistan as and when the time for signing the same comes."

Pressed further on the point, he said: "Why do you come to the conclusion that a proper responsible, legitimate, broad-based government will not be in power by the time the agreement is ready for signature?"

Pakistan does not recognise the Soviet-backed Kabul government and supports the anti-communist rebels.

Western diplomats reported Tuesday that while fighting continued in several parts of Afghanistan, rumours were growing about Soviet preparations for a withdrawal.

The diplomats, who spoke in Islamabad on condition of anonymity, said some Soviet advisers were leaving without being replaced.

They quoted "reliable Afghan reports" as saying Soviet dependents in Kabul were selling used household goods or burying them, for undisclosed reasons.

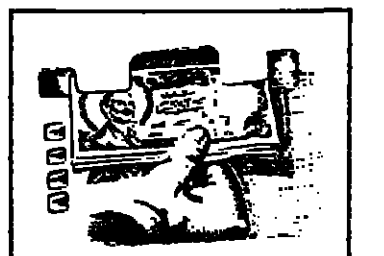
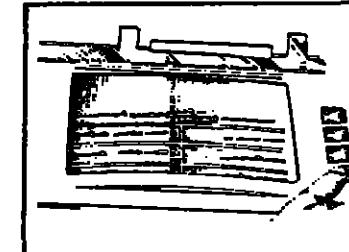
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Bonn officials 'tapped' Abbas Hamadi's phone

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — West German authorities, acting on a U.S. request, wiretapped suspected Lebanese kidnapper Abbas Ali Hamadi's telephone to gain evidence against his brother, a suspected TWA hijacker, a police expert said Tuesday.

Wolf Schwanger, an investigator for the Federal Criminal Office, told the court that West German police began the wiretaps in November 1985, acting on a request from the FBI.

Schwanger gave the testimony at the trial of Abbas Hamadi, who is accused of taking two West Germans hostage in Beirut in an attempt to force the release of his younger brother, Mohammad, who is imprisoned in Frankfurt.

The wiretaps started four months after the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut and more than a year before alleged hijacker Mohammad Hamadi was arrested at Frankfurt airport.

No details from the wiretapped conversations have yet been entered into the court's official record.

Schwanger was also expected to testify about negotiations with a Lebanese businessman who acted as a middleman for the Bonn government in efforts to gain the freedom of two West Germans kidnapped in Beirut.

The two, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, were kidnapped in January 1987, shortly after hijack suspect Mohammad Hamadi was arrested at Frankfurt airport.

Earlier Tuesday, the court heard testimony from Frank Heller, an executive for the Hoechst chemical company, Cordes' em-

ployer. Heller, citing reports from eyewitnesses in Lebanon, described to the court how Cordes was abducted at gunpoint from his car shortly after arriving in Beirut.

The other West German whom Abbas Hamadi is accused of kidnapping, Alfred Schmidt, is scheduled to take the stand Wednesday. Schmidt was released in September in what the group holding him called a goodwill gesture.

Mohammad Ali Hamadi, wanted by U.S. officials on charges of air piracy and murder in a 1985 TWA hijacking, was indicted Monday by West German prosecutors on the same counts.

Hamadi was also charged with hostage-taking, illegal possession of explosives and carrying false documents.

In a statement released to news media, prosecutors also charged that Hamadi and a Lebanese accomplice, identified as Izz Al Dine, physically mistreated passengers and members of the TWA flight crew.

U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem was killed in the June 1985 hijacking ordeal and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

The jetliner was hijacked on June 14, shortly after it took off from Athens on a flight to Rome.

A trial date for Mohammad

Sudan reportedly seizes aid trucks for bush war

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese troops preparing for an offensive against rebels have seized a total of 10 trucks operated by relief agencies in the southern town of Juba, diplomatic and relief sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the army wanted the trucks to transport troops and supplies for a campaign to recapture Kapoeta, a remote town taken over by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) last month.

The vehicles were part of a 20-truck fleet used by a consortium of eight relief agencies to distribute food to an estimated 40,000 destitute people in Juba, capital of Equatoria region.

The sources in Khartoum, quoting reports reaching them from Juba, said the army commandeered two trucks Thursday, five over the weekend and three more Monday.

The trucks were donated nearly two years ago by the British government, which provides aid to Sudan worth about \$70 million a year.

British Ambassador John Bevan and officials of other major donor countries met Minister of State for Defence Fadi Alah Bournasser Monday to protest at the army's action.

The authorities have not been able to give the assurances sought, said one source. He described Nassar's attitude as defensive and said he did not deny that the army had taken the trucks.

But Information Minister Al Touni Mohammad Al Touni dismissed the report in an interview with the independent daily Al Ayam and accused international radio broadcasts of tarnishing Sudan's image.

Sudan ordered three non-governmental relief agencies operating in the south to end their work last July after allegations that they had contacts with the SPLA.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told a news conference a week ago that military operations against the SPLA, which has been fighting in south Sudan since 1983, were hampered by inadequate transport.

A British-financed airlift of 400 tonnes of food to Juba, which United Nations officials reported last week had run out of relief supplies, had been due to start Tuesday.

But the diplomatic and relief sources said it might be delayed or postponed unless the army returned the trucks, which would be needed to transport the food.

"It would be totally pointless just to take food from one airport and store it in another," said one source.

Press reports said envoys of Sudan's Mercy Council, a semi-official body working to get food to starving people in rebel-held areas in the south, had returned to Khartoum after nearly a week of inconclusive talks with the SPLA in Addis Ababa.

'Geography of fear' spreads in Jerusalem

By Masha Hamilton
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Arab unrest has spilled from the occupied territories into Jerusalem, making more and more neighborhoods off limits to Israelis and creating a geography of fear.

Many Israelis say they are reluctant to travel through Arab neighborhoods or the old city's Muslim Quarter, where on a recent day Arab shops were shut in a protest strike.

For Israelis and Arabs, the line between living as neighbors and enemies in Jerusalem seems to grow thinner each day.

Last week, 119 Arab disturbances disrupted daily life, compared with 59 the week before, Policy Ministry spokesman Nachum Meisler said.

"There are more and more 'no go' areas in Jerusalem," said Meron Benvenisti, former deputy mayor who has lived for 17 years in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Abu Tor.

Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolek, who has struggled to maintain peace, is discouraged.

In addition, extra troops patrol

"Coexistence between Jews and Arabs has collapsed," Kolek told reporters during a tour of a refugee camp within city limits that was under curfew.

Asked about Jerusalemites who fear attacks from their Arab neighbors, he said: "I also am afraid. The situation has changed in a fundamental way."

Arab attackers have hurled firebombs and rocks at Jewish homes in the Old City and Jerusalem neighborhoods and have stoned Israeli cars on major thoroughfares. The activists also cut the central water main to two districts.

Tear gas has been used almost daily in the last week in Jerusalem to try to quell demonstrators. Arab protesters wielding iron bars and clubs have taken over some neighborhoods at night.

To restore calm, officials have clamped curfews on two Arab districts and shut Arab schools this week, the first such moves since Israel occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

round-the-clock in Jerusalem.

Police with binoculars and rifles station themselves daily on rooftops overlooking the Old City. Nevertheless, many of Jerusalem's 340,000 Jews, who live in the disputed capital with 135,000 Arabs, say they fear the measures are not enough.

"Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem have long been neighbors and enemies at the same time," said Benvenisti, who publishes annual studies of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip funded by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations.

"But now the twilight war is moving into the daylight," he said. "I feel there is a serious threat to my family. And if anyone touches my 17-year-old daughter, all my liberal feelings will fly out the window."

For their part, many Jerusalem Arabs say they feel both a closer allegiance with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza participating in "Al Intifadeh," or the uprising, and a growing independence from Israel.

"You Israelis imagined all the time that East Jerusalemites were

very different from West Bankers," the English-language Jerusalem Post quoted one Arab journalist as saying. "Now we have proved to you that we are, after all, part of the West Bank."

Jerusalem's Arab merchants began striking a month ago to protest in solidarity with Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, opening only for three hours each afternoon.

Knots of young Arab men stand on street corners talking quietly, and watching to make sure all shops remain closed.

Elderly women still squat on the sidewalk on Salaheddin Street, East Jerusalem's main shopping street, selling herbs or fruit. And a few vendors sell newspapers, including the weekly Geshet, or "bridge," which advocates co-existence between Israelis and Arabs.

Kolek fears conversations between Arabs and Jews are becoming less and less possible within Jerusalem.

"A serious thing has happened to us," Kolek said. "I'm sure there will be deep scars even when this is over."

Fijian soldier flees gunmen in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (Agencies) — A Fijian soldier, absent without leave from his United Nations peacekeeping unit in South Lebanon, escaped gunmen who chased him early Tuesday in mainly Muslim west Beirut, police said.

A spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) identified the man as Pvt. Lukisikawali Celevakurua, 19.

The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Celevakurua had left his unit on Jan. 31. "He has been absent without leave. We had informed police and all other authorities in Lebanon of his disappearance."

Police said three gunmen riding in a BMW car chased Celevakurua as he walked at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT Monday) on west Beirut's main seaside boulevard.

Their intentions were not known, although the Voice of Lebanon radio station, which is based in Christian east Beirut, said they wanted to kidnap the Fijian soldier.

Celevakurua ran into a building, that housed the British embassy, before most diplomatic missions moved out of kidnap-plagued west Beirut. Lebanese guards who look after the abandoned offices called the police, said a police spokesman.

When a police patrol arrived, the gunman sped away. Police later escorted the private to east Beirut from where he was flown by helicopter to UNIFIL's headquarters in the South Lebanon border town of Naqura, said the spokesman who refused to be identified.

Fiji has a 627-man contingent serving with the nine-nation 5,800-strong force which has been deployed in South Lebanon since 1978.

Twenty-two foreigners remain missing after they had been kid-

napped in west Beirut over the past three years. But none of them is a Fijian.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian commando chief threatened Tuesday to use force to free two U.N. relief workers after talks with their kidnappers failed to win their release.

"Dialogue has yielded no positive results so far. We're left with two options — either the two are released or force should be used and the captors' identities revealed," Abu Maher of the mainstream Palestinian Fateh Movement told Reuters.

Colleagues of the hostages from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) had been promised they would be freed at dawn on Tuesday, UNRWA sources said.

Top agency officials went to the home of local Sunni Muslim chief Mustafa Saad, whose Popular Liberation Army (PLA) militia controls the southern part of Sidon, but several hours later the hostages had not turned up, the sources said.

UNRWA has accused Palestinians loyal to Fateh of holding Swede Jase Stening, and Norwegian William Joergensen, who were grabbed by four masked gunmen in Sidon last Friday.

Witnesses said PLA militiamen armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles manned checkpoints on the Awali Bridge between Sidon and Beirut, thoroughly searching cars to foil any attempt by the captors to move the men to the capital.

Abu Maher said Fateh, led by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, believed the issue would be resolved quickly because the group knew the identities of the captors and their whereabouts.

He said there would be military coordination among local Palestinian factions if they decided to

rescue Stening and Joergensen by force.

"We hope the issue will be resolved without force but if they're not freed by tonight the issue will take a wider and bigger dimension," he said, without elaborating.

He refused to say what was holding up the release of the two men, who had supervised UNRWA's operations in the southern town of Tyre for nearly a year.

UNRWA's director for Lebanon, Per Olof Hallquist of Sweden, has stayed in Sidon with two other senior agency officials to work for their colleagues' release.

Hallquist said after meeting Saad Tuesday that he was optimistic.

"I have faith in the people who are working to end this problem. When they tell us to be patient, we have to be. Since the efforts started there has been no setback. The wheels are moving but sometimes a bit more slowly," he said.

A Palestinian official, who asked not to be identified, said Arafat had given instructions to his men "to exert all efforts to secure the release of the two men by tonight at the latest."

Palestinian officials said the hostages were being held at Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp outside the town.

Residents of the camp denounced the kidnapping, which UNRWA has said threatens its assistance for some 280,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

"The captors should be hanged in public for kidnapping our very dear people who are risking their lives to help us," said 50-year-old Um Omar.

Um Ahmad said: "UNRWA is like our big mother. It has cared for us for such a long time, when no one else has cared."

Qadhafi ends North African tour

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi left the eastern coastal Algerian town of Annaba Tuesday after a four-day visit during which he held talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, the Algerian Press Agency APS said.

It did not disclose the destination of Qadhafi, who returned to Annaba from Tunisia Monday after a summit meeting with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Idris Ali and Benjedid on a proposed Maghreb unity.

The three leaders also attended special ceremonies at the Tunisian border town of Sakiet Sidi Youssef marking the 30th anniversary of the French bombing of the town during the Algerian war of independence.

APS said Qadhafi held another round of talks with Benjedid before his departure, but gave no details.

The bombing of the village of Sakiet Sidi Youssef by French planes on Feb. 8, 1958 was in reprisal for Tunisian assistance to Algerian troops during the war. The ceremony was a symbolic restatement of Tunisian-Algerian solidarity.

Qadhafi was not originally scheduled to participate in the ceremonies, and his presence was believed to highlight the recent normalisation of relations between Tunisia and Libya.

Qadhafi and Benjedid arrived at the village, 200 kilometres west of Tunis, Monday morning and were welcomed by Idris Ali.

Tunisian radio broadcast messages from the leaders in which they emphasised the "common destiny" of North African countries.

AIDS could wreak 'social havoc'

KUWAIT (R) — An Arab health official warned Monday that the social consequences of AIDS could be more catastrophic than the deadly disease itself.

Hilmi Wahdan of the World Health Organisation (WHO) told a Middle East AIDS conference that society's most productive members, young adults between the ages of 20 and 50, had the greatest risk of catching the incurable disease.

"The social consequences of AIDS could be even more catastrophic than the disease itself," he said.

"The selected loss of young adults in their productive years of life, many of whom support parents and children, is a tragedy for both their families and society at large."

Wahdan said AIDS was the most expensive disease the world ever had to fight and the cost was prohibitive for even the wealthiest countries.

The cost of treating AIDS patients was estimated at between \$50,000 and \$150,000 each in the United States, he said. It was lower in many developing countries where home and family care

were greater.

AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, Europe and parts of Africa, and the WHO expects one million people worldwide to have caught it by 1991.

Wahdan said the primary modes of transmission in the West — male homosexual sex and intravenous drug use with contaminated needles — were less prevalent in the Middle East.

But he said more research was needed into the region's sexual practices to determine how great a threat they posed.

Defence starts final argument in Demjanjuk trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — The defence in John Demjanjuk's war crimes trial began its final arguments Tuesday, accusing the prosecution of failing to prove its charges and of violating judicial procedure.

Israeli lawyer Yoram Sheftel compared the state's case against Demjanjuk to a "dry, barren desert gully devoid of substantiating evidence."

Earlier, a smiling Demjanjuk, dressed in a gray suit, waved and

blew a kiss to his wife, Vera, 63, his daughter, Irene Nishnic, and son, John Jr., 22, who sat in front row seats in the converted movie theatre.

Demjanjuk, 67, is accused of being "Ivan the Terrible," a brutal Nazi guard who operated the gas chambers that killed 850,000 people at the Treblinka camp in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1942 and 1943.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a retired auto worker who

immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio after the war, claims he is a victim of mistaken identity.

Sheftel attacked the validity of the identification by five Treblinka survivors who identified Demjanjuk as Ivan from photo spreads.

"Demjanjuk's picture is the biggest of all those presented, the only one of a person losing his hair, the only one that is clearly in focus," said Sheftel. "All these things add up."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div> <div>Tel: 77311-19</div> <div>PROGRAMME ONE</div> <div>15:30 Koran</div> <div>15:35 Programme Review</div> <div>15:45 Cartoons</div> <div>16:15 Children's programme</div> <div>16:40 Horizons of Knowledge</div> <div>17:00 Isara Globe TV</div> <div>17:35 Local series</div> <div>18:30 Programme on Jordanian universities</div> <div>18:50 Iraq Newsletter</div> <div>19:10 Religious programme</div> <div>19:40 Programme review</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:25 Arab World Summary</div> <div>21:25 Studio of Art</div> <div>22:10 Wrestling</div> <div>23:00 News summary in Arabic</div> <div>PROGRAMME TWO</div> <div>18:00 Cirque De Moscou (Soviet artistic performance)</div> <div>19:00 News in French</div> <div>19:15 Aujourd' Hui En Jordanie</div> <div>19:30 News in Hebrew</div> <div>19:45 Sports Magazine</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Charles in Charge</div> <div>21:00 Documentary — Well-Being</div> <div>21:35 Alfred Hitchcock</div> <div>22:00 News in English</div> <div>22:20 Hold That Dream</div> <div>RADIO JORDAN</div> <div>855 KHZ. AM & 99 MHZ. FM</div> <div>& partly on 850 KHZ. SW</div> <div>Tel: 77411-19</div> <div>07:00 Light Music</div> <div>07:30 Newdesk</div> <div>08:00 Morning Show</div> <div>08:40 News Summary</div> <div>09:05 Morning Show Cont'd.</div> <div>11:00 15 Minute Theatre</div> <div>11:30 Songs from Movies</div> <div>12:00 News Summary</div> <div>12:45 Readings</div> <div>12:50 Pop Session</div> <div>13:00 News Summary</div> <div>13:05 Pop Session</div> <div>14:00 News Bulletin</div> <div>14:10 Instrumentals</div> <div>14:30 The Young Sound</div> <div>15:00 Concert Hour</div> <div>16:00 News in Summary</div> <div>16:05 Instrumentals</div> <div>16:30 Old Favourites</div> <div>17:00 Jordan Weekly</div> <div>17:50 Pop Session</div> <div>18:00 News Summary</div> <div>18:05 Science Report</div> <div>18:30 Music</div> <div>19:00 News Desk</div> <div>19:30 Date with a Star</div> <div>20:00 Evening Show</div> <div>21:00 News Summary</div> <div>21:45 Evening Show Cont'd.</div> <div>21:55 News Summary</div> <div>22:00 Evening Show Continued</div> <div>23:00 News Summary</div> <div>23:05 Evening Show Cont'd.</div> <div>23:57 News Headlines</div> <div>24:00 Close Down</div> <div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div> <div>639, 720, 1323 KHz</div> <div>06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Byron Readings</div> <div>06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Reflections</div> <div>06:50 Financial News 07:00 World</div> <div>06:55 Arabic Service 07:00 24 Hour</div> <div>07:30 Report on Religion 07:45 The</div> <div>World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30</div> <div>Meridian 09:00 World News 09:09</div> <div>Twenty-Four Hour News Summary</div> <div>09:30 Development '88 10:00 World</div> <div>News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Classical</div> <div>Record Review 10:30 Just a Minute</div> <div>11:00 World News 11:09 British Press</div> <div>Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30</div> <div>Financial News: Sports Roundup 11:45</div> <div>Stuart Colman's Record Hop 12:00</div> <div>News Summary: Omnibus 12:30 Back</div> <div>to Square One 13:00 World News</div> <div>13:09 News about Britain 13:15 Byron</div> <div>Readings 13:25 A Letter from Wales</div> <div>13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek</div> <div>14:10 Time for Verse 14:25 The Panning</div> <div>World 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00</div> <div>World News 15:09 Twenty-Four</div> <div>Hour News Summary 15:30 Development</div> <div>'88 16:00 Outlook: News 16:45</div> <div>Report on Religion 17:00 Radio Newsweek</div> <div>17:10 A Hobby — A Way of</div> <div>Life: 17:30 The Good Human Guide</div> <div>18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary</div> <div>18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World</div> <div>Today 19:00 World News</div> <div>VOICE OF AMERICA</div> <div>MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,</div> <div>11925 and 15210 Hz</div> <div>06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA</div> <div>Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline</div> <div>07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10</div> <div>Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00</div> <div>News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA</div> <div>Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline</div> <div>10:30 News 10:40 Newsline 10:50</div> <div>News 11:00 Newsline 11:10 News</div> <div>Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline</div> <div>20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News</div> <div>21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English</div> <div>News & Features 22:00 News 22:10</div> <div>Newsline America 22:30 News USA</div> <div>Jazz 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15</div> <div>Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 00:10</div> <div>World Report</div> <div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div>★ The French Cultural Centre presents "L'urbanisme Palestinien" (urban policy in Paris) at the Gallery of Architecture (until Feb. 18).</div> <div>★ Exhibitions entitled "From Gutenberg to Electronics" and "German Woodcuts from 6 Centuries" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid (until Feb. 17).</div> <div>★ An exhibition of French books at French Cultural Centre from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.</div> <div>FOLK DANCE</div> <div>★ Performances of Romanian folk dance daily at 9:00 p.m. at Alia Gateway Hotel (until Feb. 10).</div> <div>LECTURE</div> <div>★ A lecture entitled "Landscape Evolution and Early Agricultural Settlements in Jordan Valley" by Jonathan Mabry, shall follow at ACOR at 7:00 p.m.</div> <div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div> <div>Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267</div> <div>American Centre .. 644371</div> <div>British Council .. 641520</div> <div>French Cultural Centre .. 6361478</div> <div>German Cultural Centre .. 641993</div> <div>Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642033</div> <div>Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049</div> <div>Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777</div> <div>Haya Arts Centre .. 665195</div> <div>Hassan Youth City .. 6671816</div> <div>Y.W.C.A. .. 641793</div> <div>Y.W.M.C.A. .. 642521</div> <div>Amman Municipal Library .. 637111</div> <div>Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555</div> <div>MUSEUMS</div> <div>★Children's Heritage and Science Museum. Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.</div> <div>Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). 2148. The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.</div> <div>SERVICE CLUBS</div> <div>Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.</div> <div>Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.</div> <div>Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.</div> <div>Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816354, 817534.</div> <div>CHURCHES</div> <div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624390.</div> <div>Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawelbdeh, Tel. 637440.</div> <div>De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661677.</div> <div>Terranova Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Lawelbdeh, meets in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366</div> <div>Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abolal, Tel. 623541.</div> <div>Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906, chaplain's residence tel. 601259.</div> <div>Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.</div> <div>Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.</div> <div>St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.</div> <div>Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677334.</div> <div>Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Seair, tel. 811295.</div> <div>Islamic Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-ecumenical Islamic Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Tel. 826505, Rev. Vel.</div> <div>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 819817, 821264.</div> <div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</div> <div>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.</div> <div>ARRIVALS</div> <div>ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>09:15 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Damascus (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Doha (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Athens (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</div> <div>18:15 London, Geneva (RJ)</div> <div>18:45 Bangkok (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)</div> <div>23:55 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>07:40 Karachi (PK)</div> <div>09:35 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>11:20 Damascus (AZ)</div> <div>11:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)</div> <div>12:30 Damascus (Y)</div> <div>13:40 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>15:00 Jeddah, Medina (SV)</div> <div>15:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>21:00 Frankfurt (LH)</div> <div>22:25 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)</div> <div>DEPARTURES</div> <div>ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>07:00 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)</div> <div>11:30 Athens (PK)</div> <div>12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>19:40 Doha (RJ)</div> <div>19:50 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>20:45 Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>20:45 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>06:30 Cairo, London (BA)</div> <div>06:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)</div> <div>06:30 Damascus, Tripoli (PK)</div> <div>08:20 Rome (AZ)</div> <div>12:10 Tripoli (LH)</div> <div>12:45 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)</div> <div>14:00 Seoul (TY)</div> <div>15:00 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>16:30 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>23:15 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)</div> <div>PRAYER TIMES</div> <div>05:51 Fajr</div> <div>06:20 Sunrise/Dhuhr</div> <div>11:55 Dhuhr</div> <div>14:53 Asr</div> <div>17:20 Maghrib</div> <div>18:30 Isha</div> <div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div> <div>Tuesday rates</div> <div>Local currency rates in J.O.D.</div> <div>Belgian franc .. 94.7 / 96.3</div> <div>Dutch guilder .. 176.6 / 179.4</div> <div>French franc .. 58.8 / 59.7</div> <div>Italian lira .. 271 / 274</div> <div>Japanese yen (for 100) .. 261.5 / 265.6</div> <div>Swedish crown .. 55.6 / 56.5</div> <div>Swiss franc .. 242 / 246.6</div> <div>U.K. sterling pound .. 389.2 / 399.4</div> <div>U.S. dollar .. 338 / 342.9</div> <div>W. German mark .. 198.3 / 201.7</div> <div>WEATHER</div> <div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div> <div>It will be partly cloudy with slight rain. Slight rise in temperature will occur. The wind will be northwesterly. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, northerly wind and calm sea.</div> <div>Min./max. temp.</div> <div>Amman .. 5 / 14</div> <div>Agaba .. 10 / 21</div> <div>Dahsh .. 4 / 15</div> <div>Jordan Valley .. 9 / 20</div> <div>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Agaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Agaba 45 per cent.</div> <div>EMERGENCIES</div> <div>Amman governorate .. 891238</div> <div>Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199</div> <div>Civil Defence Irbid .. 27129, 27231</div> <div>Civil Defence Qadisiyah .. 770733</div> <div>Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57306</div> <div>Ambulance .. 193, 75111</div> <div>Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198</div> <div>Palestine, Shmeisani .. 661404</div> <div>Blood Bank .. 778303</div> <div>Civil Defence rescue .. 661111</div> <div>Fire headquarters .. 62309-3</div> <div>Police rescue .. 192, 62111, 637777</div> <div>Police headquarters .. 639141</div> <div>Traffic police .. 8963901</div> <div>Electric Power Co. .. 636381/4, 624881</div> <div>Municipal water complaints .. 771258</div> <div>Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533060</div> <div>HOSPITALS</div> <div>Husseini Medical Centre .. 813813/32</div> <div>Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .. 64281/6</div> <div>Al-Khalid Maternity .. 642441/2</div> <div>Jabal Amman Maternity .. 642362</div> <div>Maternity, J. Amman .. 626140</div> <div>Palestine, Shmeisani .. 661404</div> <div>Shmeisani Hospital .. 669131</div> <div>University Hospital .. 845845</div> <div>Al-Mushair Hospital .. 6672279</div> <div>The Islamic, Abolal .. 66612757</div> <div>Al-Ahli, Abolal .. 6641646</div> <div>Al-Muhajir .. 7710103</div> <div>Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .. 775111/26</div> <div>Army, Marja .. 891611/15</div> <div>Queen Alia Hospital .. 60224050</div> <div>Anat Hospital .. 674155</div> <div>NIGHT DUTY</div> <div>AMMAN:</div> <div>Dr. Bassam Al-Saidi .. 896778</div> <div>Dr. Issam Abu Riza .. 61178</div> <div>Dr. Ali Asa'd .. 897919</div> <div>Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad .. 846078</div> <div>Firdous pharmacy .. 661912</div> <div>Firdous pharmacy .. 778334</div> <div>Al Asena pharmacy .. 637053</div> <div>Nairoukh pharmacy .. 623672</div> <div>Al Salan pharmacy .. 636478</div> <div>Yacoub pharmacy .. 644943</div> <div>Shmeisani pharmacy .. 637660</div> <div>TAXIS:</div> <div>Karyati taxi .. 636730</div> <div>Tunna taxi .. 644660</div> <div>Tamer taxi .. 666467</div> <div>Raghad taxi .. 842400</div> <div>Raghad taxi .. 736428</div> <div>Raghad taxi .. 776131</div> <div>IRBID:</div> <div>Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad .. 273877</div> <div>Shara's pharmacy .. 758252</div> <div>ZARQA:</div> <div>Dr. Rafeh Atallah .. 985238</div> <div>Khalifeh pharmacy .. 985417</div> <div>GENERAL</div> <div>Jordan Television .. 77311/19</div> <div>Radio Jordan .. 77411/19</div> <div>Ministry of Tourism .. 642311</div> <div>Hotel complaints .. 666412</div> <div>Price complaints .. 12</div> <div>Telephone Information .. 661176</div> <div>Jordan and Middle-East calls .. 10</div> <div>Overseas calls .. 17</div> <div>Repair service .. 11</div> <div>MARKET PRICES</div> <div>Upperflower price in J.O.D. per kg.</div> <div>Apple (French) .. 420 / 360</div> <div>Apple (Greek) .. 470 / 400</div> <div>Banana .. 350 / 300</div> <div>Banana (Makumad) .. 120 / 80</div> <div>Beans .. 440 / 360</div> <div>Beans (broad) .. 360 / 300</div> <div>Cabbage .. 280 / 200</div> <div>Carrot (black) .. 220 / 180</div> <div>Carrot (yellow) .. 220 / 160</div> <div>Cauliflower .. 150 / 100</div> <div>Cucumbers .. 240 / 180</div> <div>Dates (box) .. 900 / 800</div> <div>Eggplant (large) .. 80 / 50</div> <div>Grapefruit .. 130 / 100</div> <div>Lemon .. 130 / 100</div> <div>Mandarin .. 200 / 160</div> <div>Marrow .. 150 / 120</div> <div>Onion (green) .. 120 / 80</div> <div>Onion (dry) .. 220 / 180</div> <div>Oranges (Abu surra) .. 320 / 280</div> <div>Oranges (Shamouta) .. 280 / 200</div> <div>Pepper (hot) .. 400 / 320</div> <div>Pepper (sweet) .. 320 / 280</div> <div>Potato .. 120 / 100</div> <div>Radish .. 80 / 50</div> <div>Spinach .. 150 / 120</div> <div>Tomatoes .. 80 / 50</div>

Parliamentary session extended one month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ongoing ordinary session of Parliament will be extended for one more month, ending on March 10 instead of Feb. 10, according to a Royal Decree issued Tuesday.

The current session, which opened on Oct. 10 with a speech from His Majesty King Hussein, has yet to discuss a number of important bills, including one on press and publications and another on the Higher Court of Justice.

The extension of the sessions opens the way for discussion of

this legislation, according to parliamentary sources.

The sources said that a two-month extraordinary parliamentary session could be announced after the holy month of Ramadan, which ends in May.

In its last full-house session, on Jan. 23, the Lower House endorsed a draft law carrying the death sentence for drug dealers with records of previous similar offences and for convicted narcotic dealers who enlist the services of juveniles in peddling drugs.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia to boost economic ties

RIYADH (Petra) — Talks on promoting trade and economic relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia ended in Riyadh Monday evening with the signing of the meeting's minutes.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf and Saudi Ministry of Finance and Economy Under Secretary Usama Al Faqih signed the minutes, which provide for promoting trade and facilitating the transportation of goods between the two countries.

The two sides agreed that the Saudi-Jordanian company for industrial and agricultural investment should speed up the exchange of documents on the company's operations, since its statutes and bylaws had been approved and its board appointed.

The minutes also called for the formation of a committee grouping experts in specifications and standards from both countries to design a programme for promoting cooperation in this field.

GUVS to grant JD 50,000 to W. Bank charitable unions

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Tuesday announced that it will grant JD 50,000 to charitable unions in West Bank cities of Jerusalem, Hebron and Nablus.

GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib said that the sum would be distributed as urgent assistance to these societies which offer humanitarian aid to the Palestinians living under Israeli rule, especially the families of martyrs who fell in the current uprising.

Earlier, GUVS announced a donation of JD 30,000 to the charitable societies in the West Bank and Gaza, and said that it would circulate a special issue of lottery tickets for the benefit of the Palestinians.

Zakat Fund announces \$50,000 donation

The Zakat (alms to the poor) Fund Tuesday announced that it received a \$50,000 donation from a Libyan national for the benefit

of the Palestinian martyrs' families in the occupied territories.

The fund, which is run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, had earlier opened the door for contributions, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat issued an appeal to the public to contribute generously towards the humanitarian cause.

Hmoud calls on public to stop illegal building on state-owned land

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said Tuesday that numerous buildings in Zarqa and Russeifa regions had been built on state-owned and agricultural land without government approval, and called on the public to refrain from committing further such violations.

The minister, speaking at a meeting with Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh and other officials, said that state-owned land should be properly organised and fairly distributed in an equitable manner to the public for construction or other forms of development.

Hmoud, who earlier made an inspection tour of farmlands and a number of poultry farms in Zarqa and Russeifa, reviewed development projects in the Zarqa region, and referred to schemes being carried out by the government in Azraq and the Hammad Basin.

These two regions are being developed to increase animal wealth and to help bedouins settle permanently and become pro-

ductive citizens, he explained. Hmoud added that the regions were being developed upon the directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who set up a special committee to conduct studies on the situation in both regions prior to designing major development schemes, Hmoud added.

The minister said that surveys were currently under way in Azraq to determine its surface and underground water resources, so that it could be used in agricultural projects. He urged the public to refrain from drilling more artesian wells in the region pending the completion of the survey.

Hmoud told the meeting that the Ministry of Agriculture would not licence any farms on state-owned land. In addition, steps are being taken to limit the number of poultry farms, as the Kingdom has a great surplus of table eggs, which are difficult to market here and abroad, the minister noted.

He said that Jordan produces

nearly 130 million table eggs a year, some of which are exported to Iraq, while the rest are being sold at cost price.

Qatameh also spoke at the meeting, outlining the agricultural situation in Zarqa Governorate and the standard of public and municipal services. He pointed to the difficulties encountered by farmers, and drew attention to the illegal construction of homes and other buildings on state-owned land.

Hmoud visits projects in Azraq

Hmoud, accompanied by local officials, visited the Azraq region, where a Ministry of Agriculture project is underway for planting 30,000 dunums with trees.

He also visited the Azraq fisheries project set up in cooperation with local farmers. The fishing is carried out in an artificial lake, spread over 60 dunums, built with financial aid from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Ajlouni, envoys discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni Tuesday voiced Jordan's interest in cooperating with Switzerland in tourism, archaeological excavations and the training of Jordanian students at Swiss institutions.

Ajlouni conveyed this message to Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Harald Borner at a meeting during which they explored scopes for cooperation in tourism.

The minister said that Jordan would like to invite Swiss travel and tourist agents and journalists to tour the Kingdom, particularly tourist and archaeological sites such as Aqaba and Petra.

He said that the Ministry of Tourism would also provide fac-

ilities for Swiss students visiting these areas or taking part in excavations.

The ambassador welcomed the idea of exchanging tourist groups, and said that Switzerland would be willing to offer hotel and tourism management training to Jordanians at its institutes and universities.

Tourism Authority Director Nassir Attallah attended the meeting.

Ajlouni earlier met with Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussein Syed to discuss bilateral cooperation in tourism.

In addition, it was announced at the meeting that Pakistan's minister of tourism would pay a visit to Jordan within the next few months.

Prospects for Jordan benefiting from Pakistan's experience in Islamic architecture and traditional aircraft industries were also discussed at the meeting, also attended by Attallah.

Ajlouni said that Jordan would like to conclude an executive programme with Pakistan for the implementation of an earlier tourism agreement.

In addition, it was announced at the meeting that Pakistan's minister of tourism would pay a visit to Jordan within the next few months.

Jordan University to contribute to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan has made arrangements for deducting a one day's pay from all employee salaries to create a fund for the benefit of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

A circular issued by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali said that the university council had decided on this measure, and that it had opened a bank account for further contributions.

The circular paid tribute to the Palestinians struggling to achieve

their freedom and regain their rights.

Correction

In yesterday's edition, the Jordan Times erroneously reported that Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chaired a meeting of the general assembly of the Jordanian Save the Children (SOS) Society. The correct name of the institution is the Jordanian Save the Children Federation. The Jordan Times regrets this inadvertent error.

Sabbah expresses hope that uprising changes status quo in occupied territories

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah said Tuesday he hoped the ongoing uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would change the status quo in the Israeli-occupied territories, and bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"We hope that all this suffering would lead to a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem, a cause of distress for the past 40 years," said Patriarch Sabbah, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

He told the Jordan Times that "the current state of affairs has prompted the Palestinian people — all Palestinians — to rise against continued oppression."

He was replying to a question on whether the current uprising was sponsored and fed mainly by Islamic fundamentalism.

In a recent interview with the British Independent Television network, His Majesty King Hussein said that "the ongoing uprising was initiated solely by the people living under Israeli rule."

Prince Hassan condoles Abu Zaid family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday delegated the director of his office, Michael Hamarneh, to convey his condolences to the Abu Zaid family over the death of Hajieh Al Tal Abu Zaid.

Princess Wijdan leaves for Sudan today

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society for Fine Arts, today leaves for a ten-day visit to Sudan, during which she will meet with the Sudanese prime minister and foreign minister.

Princess Wijdan will also hold talks with the Sudanese minister of culture and information on bolstering cultural cooperation and prospects for holding a Sudanese cultural week in Jordan.

In addition, the princess will attend the inauguration celebration of the fine arts hall at the Sudanese National Council of Arts, and will visit Khartoum University, cultural centres and museums.

future dialogue between Islam and Christianity, especially in Jordan where people are bonded with fraternity," he said.

Sabbah held talks Tuesday with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayer, who stressed the social cohesion in the Kingdom and the fraternity and equality among Muslims and Christians.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Fayez as lauding Pope John Paul II's decision to appoint a Palestinian Arab patriarch of Jerusalem.

Consecrated at the Vatican on Jan. 6, Patriarch Sabbah is the first Arab designate to take this post since the Vatican reinstated the Jerusalem Patriarchate in 1947. There had been Arabic-speaking patriarchs before the annulment of the patriarchate in the fifth century.

Roman Catholic followers in the Jerusalem Patriarchate number approximately 60,000, 50 per cent of them in the West Bank.

Israeli troops murder 2 more Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

Official Israeli figures for the first two months of uprising showed 23 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip and 19 in the West Bank while injured in the two areas were respectively 193 and 241. Hospital records and U.N. counts put the figure of injured at about 800.

The army toll showed 122 soldiers and 69 Israelis were hurt in the uprising while 2,635 Palestinians were in prison awaiting charges or trial. Another 623

were already sentenced, most of them for periods of a month or two.

Curfews continued to be in effect Tuesday on 12 refugee camps and towns in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Arab Jerusalem. More than 200,000 Arabs have been confined to their homes indefinitely by the curfews.

A month-long commercial strike by Arab merchants continued to be in effect in Arab Jerusalem, and the 16,000 Arab students stayed home for the third straight day after city officials closed 30 schools.

Egypt welcomes EC statement

(Continued from page 1)

agreement on the convening of it as early as possible. The Twelve will continue to play their full part in these efforts. In that perspective they welcome all recent efforts to inject new impetus in the search towards a negotiated settlement to the conflict. 4. Without prejudging future political solutions, the Twelve remain determined towards improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The community is pursuing its own development programme for these territories, has granted additional humanitarian aid to their Palestinian population and is determined to promote direct exports of agricultural and industrial products from the territories to the community market. 5. The Twelve deplore the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories, and the diversion of resources to these illegal settlements. They acknowledge the valuable work by UNRWA and ICRC in favour of the Palestinian population in the territories and expect Israel to facilitate the task of those bodies. 6. The Twelve urge Israel fully to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1987) and 608 (1988) and with the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of 12 August 1949. They deeply deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, which are in violation of international law and human rights. These measures must stop. 7. They strongly appeal to all parties to exercise maximum restraint in order to reduce the dangerous level of tension in the occupied territories.

A gothic pair rocks an ancient city

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When the ancient Nabataeans carved their rose-red city in the rocks of Petra, they did not have the faintest notion that near the end of the twentieth century their city would be the setting for a high-tech promotional video for a British music group. Nor was the idea less surprising for indigenous bedouins who

"Food Land," an eight-cut album released two years later, according to the group's manager, Boyd Steemson.

Riding down the narrow path (stq), zooming towards the monastery, an aerial view of the group pausing at the court platform and a wild scene of 50 men on camels stampeding down the old city's paths are just few sequences from the avant-garde pro-

duction. "The film is not based on a specific story, but rather on a series of images connected by incidental actions, and the main thrust will be Eldritch and Patricia Morrison, after the release of a ten-song album "First, Last and Always" when the group came to light in 1985, and

joined in efforts to make the four-minute film. The footage, filmed Friday and Saturday, is designed to promote Sisters of Mercy's next single, scheduled to be released in London later this month.

"Dominion" will be the third venture of Andrew Eldritch and Patricia Morrison, after the release of a ten-song album "First, Last and Always" when the group came to light in 1985, and

civilisation," Steemson told the Jordan Times.

"We serve an old man in a dry season; a lighthouse keeper in the desert sun; dreamers of sleepers and white treason," the lyrics say. "We dream of rain and the history of the gun; there is light-house in the middle of Prussia," the song continues. "A white house in a red square."

"We wanted more than a de-

Turkey, Egypt or North Africa, but abandoned the ideas for various reasons. "We found places, but they were either exhausted or inappropriate individually. Petra had everything — the uniqueness and mysticism, in addition to a colourful landscape."

Eldritch and Morrison's experience in Jordan is completely different from what they had perceived in advance. "We wouldn't have done better anywhere else," Morrison told the Jordan Times. "We are glad to have come to Jordan, especially with the tremendous cooperation we have received from Jordanian officials and people," said Eldritch, who both composes and writes the lyrics for the group's songs.

The Ministry of Tourism furnished the group with all facilities necessary to carry out the project, and the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJA) sent a helicopter to shoot the aerial scenes. "We could never have afforded a chopper, which was essential to the filming process," said Steemson, who put the project's budget at £100,000. "We would never have gotten a British Royal Air Force chopper, much less permission to fly one," he added.

Helicopter crew members First Lieutenant Mohammad Horani, Lieutenant Maher Shureideh and Sami Qurashi were described by the film crew as courageous and cooperative. Horani told the Jordan Times he believed the film would promote tourism in the ancient city.

Soon millions will view the video, which will be screened in Western Europe, Japan and the United States. A major British television network will broadcast the film to an estimated 10 to 12 million viewers. A similar number of television viewers are expected to see the film on a German rock programme, said Steemson, adding that the American Music Television (MTV) programme would also broadcast the show to millions. And most importantly, the film will be available for purchase in video markets.

Sisters of Mercy has been labelled by the press as part of the "Gothic" movement — a trend in fashion and music characterised by black hair, ghost-white faces and dark themes — though their music can be generally categorised as new wave.



Sisters of Mercy (Andrew Eldritch and Patricia Morrison): A gothic pair against the backdrop of ancient Petra.

joined in efforts to make the four-minute film.

The footage, filmed Friday and Saturday, is designed to promote Sisters of Mercy's next single, scheduled to be released in London later this month.

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Times that he expected the film to be highly successful due to the uniqueness of its setting and the scenes.

Steemson said he singled out Petra as the shooting site after long search for a landscape which matched the lyrics. "The idea of the song is about an empire crumbling after decades of prosperity and progress. People of might and power become over-ruled at the fall of their great

sert environment. We wanted buildings and ruins with a sense of splendour but confusion," Steemson continued. "We wanted people to exclaim, 'Where on earth did this shooting take place!'" He said the "lyrics are ambiguous and have multiple meanings, and we wanted the pictures to be ambiguous with multiple meanings."

Steemson said the group had considered shooting the film in



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The tool of trade

THE European Community (EC) foreign ministers' decision to deplore the Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians under occupation, and to describe them as violations of international law and human rights, was a bold, correct and courageous step — and not the first time the EC has spoken out against illegal and inhuman Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ever since the 1980 Venice Declaration, the EC has taken commendable and positive positions in favour of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The community has never wavered in its call for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East, and for an expeditious end to repressive Israeli measures and practices in the occupied territories.

And unlike some other fora, the EC has the muscle to translate its stands into deeds. This is how we would like the EC to move — to enforce its much-appreciated positions on peace conditions in the Middle East. Fortunately or unfortunately, Israel enjoys sizable economic and trade relations with the EC. The tools of trade and commerce have always been effective in driving home the policies of the trading partners.

We have recently seen the EC exercise moral, economic and trade muscle against Israel with regard to the agricultural products of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, when it forced Israel to acquiesce on direct shipments of produce from the occupied territories to Europe. Now is the time for the EC to use its full economic and trade leverage with Israel, to convince it to accept the international standards for peace in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King briefs EC ministers

IN an address to the European Community foreign ministers meeting in Bonn, King Hussein presented the problems of the Middle East and the challenges that are posed to peace and security in the region. He pointed to the continued occupation of Arab land, describing it as an aggression on justice and international principles and rights. The monarch reminded the Europeans of the Israeli rejection of peace and withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and also of the Arab Nation's acceptance of peace and U.N. Security Council resolutions that can guarantee that peace. He also reminded the Europeans of the dangerous situation in the Middle East due to Israel's continued terrorist policies and its oppression and expansionist policies. The King addressed the Europeans, briefing them on all the facts about our region because it is close to Europe and is linked to it by historic, cultural and economic ties. He made the address at a time when the occupied Arab territory continues to witness escalation of violence, and as more and more voices are being raised demanding that a solution be found for the Palestine problem through an international peace conference. Only Israel and the United States among world nations continue to oppose the idea of the conference and remain hostile to the Palestinians and to their rights in their homeland. The King spoke about the current uprising of the Palestinian people, urging the Europeans to take speedy action for ending the conflict in the Middle East, and re-establishing peace and security in this region.

Al Dustour: King warns of dangers

KING Hussein conveyed the facts about the Middle East to the European nations, warning of the danger inherent in Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and its pursuit of its arbitrary policies against the Arab population. The monarch addressed the conscience of the European governments and masses, offering all the details about the uprising of the Palestinians and their sufferings over the past years and urging the world to do them justice and help them regain their land and their right. As the King pointed out, Israel cannot and will not perpetuate its occupation and colonisation of Arab land, and subjugate its indigenous population to the will of force. The world has to help the Palestinians and the Arabs to regain their legitimate rights through peace which can be brought about by a U.N. sponsored international conference. The King also pointed out the fact that Europe and the Arab World have come to agree on basic facts and principles and also on the need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The Arabs and Europe proved to be in agreement through the Arab summit resolutions in Amman and Fez, and through the European Community's Venice Declaration of 1980. The Europeans went a further step in February 1987 when they demanded that an international conference be held to find a just and lasting settlement for the Middle East question. Failure to find solutions for this region's questions will no doubt open the door for more violence and more disasters.

Sawt Al Shaab: King sums up Mideast situation

KING Hussein's speech to the European Community yesterday was comprehensive and covered all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the Middle East. The King reiterated Jordan's views with regard to the establishment of peace and called again for the convening of an international conference which remains the only frame work for working out a lasting settlement. The King drew Europe's attention to Israel's intransigence and also to Iran's continued aggression both of which, he said, have been the underlying causes of tension in this region. The King's address to Europe was aimed at enlisting the European governments' help to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on both issues. What Jordan seeks is not mere condemnation of actions by aggressors but meaningful action towards establishing peace based on justice. The current Israeli atrocities and the continuing Iranian aggression on Arab land in Iraq and the Gulf waters should be stopped before peace can be established.

14 years on, the saga continues

By Tania Nasir

The writer is the wife of Hanna Nasir, the deported president of Birzeit University. Dr. Nasir on Tuesday left Amman for Athens to join other Palestinian deportees in the boat trip bound for Haifa, Palestine.

NOVEMBER 21, 1974, is a day that I still vividly remember. The West Bank of Jordan, occupied by Israel in 1967, was up in an uproar. Earlier that month, the Palestinian case was presented at the United Nations by Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The United Nations gave formal recognition to the PLO, with the same observer status that was given to other organisations. For the first time the international community has begun to listen and to understand the plight of our people. On that historic occasion, Arafat offered the world the olive branch of peace. It was the world's choice to take it or leave it.

People in the West Bank could not hide their feeling of triumph. Right was on their side. Students, men, women and children filled the streets. Demonstrations erupted everywhere. Slogans denouncing occupation resounded in mighty force. The Israeli army could not take this direct defiance and they ferociously tried to crush this outright rebellion. In one of the West Bank towns, a young student was shot dead by the army, as he took part in one of the demonstrations. The turmoil gained momentum and the soldiers persisted in their attack. Guns on one side, stones and the Palestinian flag on the other.

Students struggle for freedom

In the small university town of Birzeit, where I and my husband Hanna, the president of the university, lived, the student body was growing restless. They were very much a part of life in the West Bank, and they particularly felt the frustrations of being under occupation. They were young and eager and occupation stood in the way of their struggle for freedom, and they rebelled against it. The youth martyred the day before was their brother, and they wanted to pay him tribute, and so they organised a silent march.

Standing on the roof of one of the campus buildings, I anxiously watched the march go by. It was dignified and peaceful, but in a flash I saw tens of Israeli soldiers appear on the scene. The students ran here and there gathering stones and sticks from nearby fields to protect themselves. The scene was turning into an actual battle field. Then I heard the sound of a car. It was my husband rushing to the scene. I saw him talk feverishly with the officer in charge. After sometime, I saw the march go on down the streets of Birzeit. My husband was in front and the army walked on both sides until the students went safely into the campus. Then the soldiers surrounded the campus walls.

I was relieved. Although the students were momentarily safe, anxiety and worry still reigned. The army was still in town and I wondered what will happen next. I met my husband at lunch. He was angry and upset. His encounter with the army was a strenuous one. Later in the afternoon, the army lifted its siege and the students were able to go home to their anxious families.

We retired early that night. The events of the day left us weary both in body and spirit. How long will this inhuman occupation continue? When are we going to be free? I prayed most ardently for this suffering to cease. I desperately wanted our children to grow up in Palestine; tranquil and serene. In the likeness of its soft rolling hills, its humble unaffected beauty. With great difficulty I went to sleep but shortly afterwards the phone rang. It was 11 p.m. I jumped to answer. It was the military governor asking to speak to my husband. Alarmed, I woke Hanna up. This call, at the end of a turbulent day, was not unusual. Being in charge of the university, he was, of course, held responsible for all that took place on campus. It was useless to explain to the Israelis that the university

students live in a democratic liberal atmosphere, and like other students in the world, they were encouraged and trained to think freely and act accordingly. Such arguments were never accepted and my husband and other members of the administration staff were constantly harassed whenever the students expressed any opinion or took part in a demonstration against occupation. As he put down the receiver, Hanna explained that he was summoned immediately for a meeting at the military headquarters of the Israeli occupation authorities in Ramallah, a nearby town.

Hanna deported

It was a cold night. Dressed in a heavy coat and without looking at the children sleeping in the next room he hurriedly left. With a heavy heart, I watched him go, knowing little of what will take place in the hours to come. I tried to go back to sleep but in vain. Dawn came and Hanna still had not come back. By now I was worried. I sent word to members of our family. They contacted the mayor of Birzeit who inquired at the military headquarters. He was told that Hanna was still at a meeting, with several other Palestinians, who were all summoned up by the military governor in the wake of the mounting disturbances in the West Bank. We were told not to worry. Hours passed and still not a sign of him. Again and again we asked all available sources to find out the reason for the delay, and the Israeli authorities reassuring us that all was well and that he would be back soon. Then we heard the news. It was 10.30 a.m., the Arabic news bulletin from the Israeli radio announced that Hanna, along with four other Palestinians, were deported and were now already in Lebanon, hundreds of miles away.

Overnight my world has changed. My husband was deported and I was left alone with our four children. Slowly the shock began to seep in. Anger, frustration, sorrow, desolation, were but a few of the myriad of emotions that bombarded my soul. I could not comprehend this unjust act. The children bombarded me with anxious questions and besieged me with their worried looks. I embraced them and tried with all might to comfort them; and hardest of all to explain to them, and maybe to myself as well, why their father had been suddenly taken away. Once again, Israel has committed a violation of human rights. All international laws considered deportation, for whatever reason, an illegal act. But Israel did not care. It behaved as it wished not bound by law nor creed.

As soon as word got round that Hanna was deported, the university students held a sit in. They wanted their president back. It was a simple straight forward request. The authorities refused to discuss the issue, and threatened the students with arrest and other punitive measures if they did not break the sit in. The students held fast, and friends from all over the West Bank came to Birzeit in solidarity, while demonstrations continued in all West Bank towns in protest of the deportations.

Newspapers, T.V. reporters, photographers came and went seeking details of the deportation. Friends dropped by to ask what they could do for the children and myself. I have never felt more, the love and sincerity of my people. But, amidst all this warm, affectionate attention, I was alone. Thoughts of Hanna forced away from all that he held dear pressed on me. I thought of how strongly Hanna and I felt about living in Palestine, sharing in the intellectual growth of our people. It was a lifetime commitment of deep love and faith in our just cause. We have never thought, not in our wildest dreams, that we will ever live anywhere else. The University of Birzeit, that Hanna has helped to establish as the first Arab

university in Palestine, was the centre of our existence. And now, Hanna was forced out, away from all this. We were not even given the chance to say goodbye. It was cruel and inhuman. I wondered what the future will bring?

Going east to meet Hanna

After about ten days of Hanna's deportation, I was able to obtain a permit to leave the West Bank and cross the bridge to Jordan where Hanna came from Lebanon to meet me. The meeting was a deep emotional experience. I was filled with a great sense of relief at seeing Hanna once more. He was in good health, and although he spoke with great sadness, his spirits were high. It took several hours for us to calm down, then painfully Hanna recounted what took place since he left home, late on that November night. I listened spellbound when he told me how he was grabbed as he arrived at the military headquarters, and then handcuffed and blindfolded and driven — along with four other Palestinians — all the way to Lebanon and simply dumped across the borders. There were no charges and no due process of law.

That brief visit with Hanna marked the beginning of a new way of life for us. I still lived with the children at home in the West Bank and Hanna lived in Beirut. Every few weeks I would obtain a permit for myself and one of the children to cross to meet him in Jordan or in Lebanon. These fleeting encounters were happy yet painful. The crossing back and forth from Palestine to the East Bank was a strenuous depressing experience. Sometimes, we spent about eight hours waiting to cross over. The Israeli army demanded a thorough body search; often a complete removal of clothing was ordered. Food was not allowed and the children often grew weary with hunger and waiting. But I have always considered all this, a little price to pay for the joy of being with Hanna.

Constant efforts were made on all fronts to allow my husband to go back. Petitions by the university officials, students, as well as several requests by international bodies of the U.N., religious bodies and international university boards, were sent. Hanna was even ready to stand trial if need be, for he knew that the Israelis had absolutely nothing to hold against him. He was one among 1500 Palestinians forced to leave their homeland. These men and women were all forced out of Palestine in a vile attempt to deprive the country of its leadership. Hanna's case was no different and the Israelis adamantly rebuffed any attempts for Hanna's return.

For one whole year we waited, hoping and working hard for Hanna's return. But as the months passed, with no success, we started to realise that this is going to be the battle of a lifetime. One whole year had passed. Hanna and I had to stop and think seriously of the future. The strain has begun to show on us and on the children. We thought and debated, and finally took the difficult decision that I and the children would leave our home in Palestine to join Hanna in his exile.

Now, almost fourteen years from that November morning, we are in Amman, Jordan. It is a de facto exile for me and the children too. Once in a while I go back to Palestine, but now I go there as a visitor. It is a deep wound. I cannot accept it and cannot adjust to it. My days away from Palestine are a continuous struggle to go on, to meet the challenge patiently yet always hoping that a day will soon come when Hanna's exile will end and our whole family will once again live in Birzeit. Going back is a dream we share with four million Palestinians scattered all over the world. Israel does not allow us to return. Israel has forced us out. One day with patience and determination, we shall all return. Proud Palestinians in a free Palestine!

King: Palestinian revolt a historic event

(Continued from page 1)

of the Israeli people a pawn in the hands of politicians seeking small personal or party gains rather than a valued human asset groomed by statesmen to lead a normal life, under conditions of security and peace. Indeed, like the Arabs, the Israelis will suffer because of the lack of peace.

Briefly outlining the evolution of the Palestinian problem and Israel's persistent rejection of just peace based on international legitimacy as reflected in U.N. resolutions, the King pointed out that Israel was always pursuing expansionist goals. He cited the changing Israeli references to the occupied West Bank in the years that followed the 1967 war. "In most cases today it is described as Judea and Samaria," the King pointed out.

"I bring this up to emphasise the point that Israel must bear the responsibility for the faltering peace process and that those who are in a position to influence Israel's stand, yet fail to do so, must also share the blame," said the King.

"The United States, for one, which in the 70s had taken the position that 'a strong Israel is an Israel ready for peace', has now been caught in a trap." His Majesty continued, "Israel, fortified by the United States, has become a more intransigent Israel, a less realistic Israel, an Israel bent on hegemony and imbued with a futile historical ideology feeding expansionist designs."

Reaffirming that the Arab World has accepted the concept of peace with Israel in exchange for territory, the King reiterated the Arab call for an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices and participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to negotiate the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 and to resolve the Palestine problem in all its aspects.

"Will a consensus emerge in Israel on accepting the conference?" the King asked. "Will the United States change its position? Those are questions awaiting an answer. But we must continue to try. We must never give up hope. Peace deserves our best effort. Only through peace will it be possible for the peoples of the region to lead a normal life based on dignity."

"In conclusion, I feel compelled to make the following points: — We are still hopeful that the United States will assume its

responsibilities as a superpower and reconsider its position vis-à-vis the cause of peace in the Middle East, moving in a more positive and effective direction.

"We are hopeful that the extremist Zionist lobby in the United States will realise that Israel is not an economic project subject only to the profit and loss motive, with no consideration for the human dimension. We hope it will realise that its support for Israel, right or wrong, enables it to continue to inflict grave injustice on the Palestinian people."

"We are hopeful that the members of the United States Congress will adhere more stringently to the principles on which the United States was founded."

"We are hopeful that the European Community, as the Middle East's neighbour, will move towards effective political action supporting the steps leading to the convening of an international peace conference."

"And, finally, we hope that the Israeli leadership will realise that breaking the limbs of Palestinians will not break their will or diminish their yearning for freedom. History clearly shows that prisons, whips and deportations have never succeeded in stifling any people's spirit or in depriving them of their liberty indefinitely."

"Israel must realise that if it is to be accepted in the Middle East as a neighbour, it must cease to be an expansionist invader."

In his speech, the King also referred to the Iran-Iraq war and deplored Iran's rejection of peace proposals and called for the enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

He said: "With regard to the confrontation between Iraq and Iran, whatever may be said about its causes, motives or intent, the Iranian leadership must surely bear responsibility for prolonging the war and for the destructive consequences that will inevitably have. These include, as I am sure you are well aware, that the war may spill over into the entire oil-rich Gulf region, with a potentially devastating effect on the world's industrial and commercial interests. The presence of so many warships and minesweepers in the area reflects the fears harboured by countries whose interests are threatened by the war. Attacks by Iranian gunboats against shipping in international waterways leave us in no doubt that the war has already extended beyond the two countries concerned. The potential dangers of the continuation of the war indicate that there is no alternative to bringing the conflict to an end — in the best interests of the region and the world."

The journey home: A Right to Return, a Right to Human Dignity

The following is part one of a pamphlet published by the Committee of Palestinian Deportees on the occasion of the return boat journey to Palestine. Part two appears tomorrow.

THE present uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has once again focused the world's attention on the 20-year-old Israeli occupation — an occupation that has been characterised by repeated violations of international law and conventions, and of accepted principles of human rights. Israeli troops, civilian authorities and vigilante-like armed settlers have indulged in practices

such as killing and wounding unarmed civilians, expropriating extensive land and water resources, severely and randomly beating young men, imposing collective punishments on entire families, villages and refugee camps, holding Palestinians for months without charge under administrative detention and house arrest, torturing prisoners, and forcibly deporting Palestinian men and women to other countries.

Deportation is an inhuman and odious ordeal, involving forced separation of individuals from their families and communities, and permanent exile from their ancestral homeland. It is a categorical violation of Article 49 of

the 4th Geneva Convention — which Israel has signed, and which explicitly prohibits deportations in any form and for any reason.

Over the past 20 years, Israel has deported some 2,000 Palestinian men and women, usually without even any regard for the due process of law. The most recent deportees were four Palestinian men from the West Bank and Gaza who were sent to Lebanon in January 1988, despite a unanimous United Nations Security Council Resolution calling on Israel to refrain from such deportations. The vast majority of deportees have been grassroots community leaders — doctors, lawyers, religious figures; educators, labour union leaders and mayors — indicating that Israel's deportations aim to eliminate virtually the entire indigenous leadership of the West Bank and Gaza.

This "Journey Home" by some 100 Palestinian deportees and

scores of international supporters is a symbol of the 2,000 deported Palestinians and of the millions of other Palestinian refugees who long to return home to live in peace in their own land.

This "Journey Home" is a message to the world that the Palestinian deportees intend to exercise their right to return home — a right that has been recognised and affirmed by several United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

This "Journey Home" is also a message of solidarity with the Palestinians who are courageously resisting the Israeli occupation, and a reaffirmation with them of the need to end the occupation — so that the Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, may exercise their inalienable rights of return and of self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state on their liberated soil.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 607, of January 5, 1988:

The Security Council, Recalling its Resolution 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, Expressing grave concern over the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, Having been apprised of the decision of Israel, the occupying power, to "continue the deportation" of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, Recalling the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, and in particular Articles 47 and 49 of same, 1. Reaffirms once again that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem; 2. Calls upon Israel to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories; 3. Strongly requests Israel, the occupying power, to abide by its obligations arising from the convention; 4. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review.

Can the contras survive without aid?

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Can Nicaragua's contra rebels survive without the United States?

That is the big question left hanging after the House of Representatives' vote to cut off military aid to the contras, who for seven years have been waging hit-and-run war against the leftist Sandinista government in Managua.

U.S. aid has been the contras' lifeblood since 1981 but rebel leaders have vowed to fight on despite the aid ban.

Central America experts across the political spectrum in Washington are dubious. Many say the contras' prospects for keeping much military pressure on Managua are questionable at best and that President Reagan's Nicaragua policy is a mess.

The president's contra policy is dead, California representative Tony Coelho, a deputy Democrat leader, told reporters.

"It should now be buried — it's time to pull the plug," said Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Even before the package was defeated last Wednesday, White House officials had gradually scaled it down from some \$100 million to \$36 million, with only \$3.6 million earmarked for lethal hardware.

Reagan said however, that without contra pressure Ortega would be freer to repress dissent at home and to export revolution to his — and America's — neighbours.

But many experts doubt significant amounts of contra aid will be forthcoming in Reagan's final year in office.

Democratic opponents of aid argued that cutting off help to the rebels would test Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's promise to comply with a Central American peace plan signed by the region's leaders last August.

Reagan says however, that without contra pressure Ortega would be freer to repress dissent at home and to export revolution to his — and America's — neighbours.

But many experts doubt significant amounts of contra aid will be forthcoming in Reagan's final year in office.

Impediments to U.S.-Arab trade in professional services

By Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

The following is a presentation made by the author at the Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA during a symposium on U.S.-Arab Economic Relations held in September 1987.

Introduction

I AM delighted to have been invited to address this forum on the subject of "Impediments to U.S.-Arab Trade in Professional Services." Although this title is negative, I am by nature a very positive person and I would like to tackle this from the viewpoint of what can be done by both sides to improve inter Arab-U.S. trade in professional services — and I emphasise the words "Both" and "Inter". The service sector is complex and heterogeneous ranging from high technology maintenance and encompassing a broad range of financial, transport and construction/engineering services. The lack of data on traded services makes it difficult to be specific. Nevertheless, I will draw on my own business background for illustrative purposes the lessons learned which can be generalised and are applicable to all professional services.

Political dimensions

Moreover, the subject of discussion is but a part of the complex web of U.S.-Arab relations and, as such, need to be examined in its proper politico-economic context in order to gain a full view of its true dimensions. Time does not permit me to go into a lengthy analysis and I am sure this will be touched upon by other speakers but I would like to mention in passing certain major issues, that need to be attended to, before we talk about developing trade in the professional services sector.

I wish to make it clear, however, that any observations I make are purely on a personal basis and do not represent the views of any country or political group.

In recent years U.S.-Arab relations, including trade relations, have subsided to their lowest ebb. The main cause of this is the U.S. political stance in the Middle East. It is a source of major concern and frustration among many Arab countries, who, otherwise, would rather deal with the U.S. than anyone else. As a prominent Arab personality, Abdulaziz Al Sagr, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce told an Arab-U.S. symposium in Kuwait:

"U.S.-Arab relations are rather like a mirage in the desert extending over 37 long years. From a distance you think it is water, but when you approach it in earnest you find it is only sand glistening under the burning sun. When you scoop up a handful, it flows through your fingers leaving only pain and frustration."

One could not have summed it up better. That the U.S. should choose to put the interests of Israel over those of 22 other nations of the region is a baffling element of modern history of the region, and the root cause of suspicion about U.S. intentions in the Middle East. And you cannot say let us leave politics aside and get on with the business on hand. I am afraid economic relations cannot be separated from political realities. While it is true that recent events in the Middle East has pushed the U.S. closer to some Arab states, especially in the Gulf region, there is no denying the fact that the root cause of many of the problems in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, has still not been attended to. Unless the U.S. is serious about resolving this fundamental human issue, one cannot foresee or guarantee smooth and trouble-free material relations with the Arab World. Not that the U.S. is unaware of the problem, but for reasons best known to its policy-makers, chooses to turn a blind eye to it. Hence the Arab frustration.

Arab economic boycott of Israel

This leads to the question of Arab economic boycott of Israel and the U.S.-anti-boycott laws. The Arab boycott is a legitimate and internationally recognised means of opposing continued Israeli aggression. It is not based on any form of racial or religious discrimination, but is a fundamental principle of the legitimate right of self-defence.

The Arab boycott is applied to both domestic and foreign companies, including American, not simply to punish them for dealing with Israel or for having branches there, but also to prevent Arabs from dealing with institutions and companies that seek to back Israel's economic and hence military capability. In this way the boycott aims to halt Israel's current hostile policy which violates international laws and conventions and U.N. resolutions and principles. The Arab boycott is in no way differs from their boycott imposed during the World War II on Germany and its allies by the U.S. and Britain. Indeed, the Arab boycott is much less stringent than that imposed by the United States against Egypt in the 1950s, that against Cuba later on, or that against the Soviet Union more recently. It is interesting to note that the U.S. opposition to the Arab boycott only started 30 years after the boycott was first applied!

Attempts to amend the anti-Arab boycott laws in the U.S. are consistent not only with international rights and conventions, but also with the interests of U.S. companies first and foremost. Many of these companies, especially the medium and small-sized ones, are losing out in the Arab markets because of the U.S. law

forbidding them from providing the Arab boycott offices with answers to queries that would refute possible misinformation about their activities.

Impediments on the U.S. side

As one takes a closer view of the U.S.-Arab trade figures, the volume of trade is certainly not something that can be scoffed at. There has been a seven-fold rise in U.S. exports and services to the region during the past decade. Despite the downturn in trade, for a number of factors, Arab imports from U.S. at the end of 1986 stood at approximately \$10 billion and its exports at approximately \$8 billion; a \$2 billion trade surplus in favour of the U.S., in marked contrast with virtually every other trading area of the world. It is estimated that the Arab Gulf region alone represents the fifth largest market for U.S. goods and services, leaving aside military hardware and related services and trade in services forms more than 50 per cent of the total volume of trade. Yet this does not seem to be reflected in the U.S. commitment to this area.

In February 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy published its long awaited 400-page study on U.S. energy security. It described the Middle East, and the Gulf in particular, as unstable and volatile. The U.S., it said, needed to diversify its sources of oil. The report reflected a mood, and according to political commentators, Washington — the administration, Congress and influential sectors of the U.S. oil industry — considered that the Middle East should be downgraded in terms of U.S. energy relationships. Yet actual imports from the region were increasing. Administration officials, it is said, privately acknowledged that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states had been reliable suppliers, but this was not the message conveyed when officials spoke in public!

In addition to the very specific issues there is also another general point. The issue of "trade in services" has already become a contentious "North-South" issue, with the LDC's (Lesser Developed Countries) complaining that mostly the gains from trade are accruing to industrially advanced countries at the expense of the LDC's a sort of one-way street in favour of the industrial North.

While this is obviously a global issue and is best discussed at an international forum, it, nevertheless, has certain relevance to the discussion here today. The U.S. obviously is the economic giant of the North Block and the Arab countries in general belong to the LDC's. Any talks, therefore, about developing the volume of trade between the U.S. and the Arab World in the present circumstances must not be seen as just an increase in the one-way flow of commodities and services. Such a one-sided exchange in any activity is no longer acceptable to the Arab World.

Against this political and economic background let me now look at some specific impediments to the development of U.S.-Arab trade in professional services. On the U.S. side I think the most important can be summed up in the phrase "an apparent lack of commitment to the development of the professional infrastructure which is required to provide the necessary foundation for this not to be simply a short lived phenomenon." I will return to this point when I illustrate what we are trying to do in this respect.

American firms are reluctant to commit men and material to develop the market. Some major companies have pulled out lock, stock and barrel while others prefer to treat Arab projects on a one-by-one basis — not an attitude likely to inspire confidence. Even hard nosed businessmen who would be unlikely to accept what the media says without question are willing to accept the media generated myths about the security in the region, and yet those who are familiar with the place can vouch for it that streets of Riyadh are the safest in the world and that there is more crime and terrorism in mainland America or Europe than the Middle East.

An undue concern with the risk factors resulting in attempts to obtain high profit margins in compensation is a major impediment that takes the competitive edge off American services in the Middle East.

American organisations also loose out on contract-bidding because of their unfamiliarity with the tendering procedures, an unfamiliarity which arises out of this lack of commitment.

Arab markets have now grown larger in scale and sophistication and they increasingly demand goods and services tailored to the needs and requirements of local conditions and tastes. Tendering terms are therefore overwhelmingly in favour of the client, mostly the government ministries. And while price quotation is of the essence, other considerations also play a significant part in getting a contract. It is no longer enough merely to provide a product that is competitive in price. Staffing, durability, servicing and part replacement must be of a quality at least consistent with what is being offered by others throughout the world.

There is a certain amount of complacency among American firms in that they think that their brand name alone can sell and there is no need to work at designing products and developing marketing campaigns specifically for the Arab markets. This is not the way to get business. As a prominent American journal pointed out the other day, the U.S. has moved from its No. 1 slot to a "first among equals" status with its competitors from the Far East and a resurgent Europe. All the more reason why Americans should work harder at gaining new markets and retaining them.

Impediments on the Arab side

It would be wrong of course to pretend that there are not certain aspects of Arab business practice which are a deterrent to the development of U.S.-Arab trade in services.

Americans, who are used to the "business is business" philosophy find that their "no-nonsense" approach will rarely coincide with the Arab business style. For the latter, social, political, and personal considerations may be more important at a given time than closing a business transaction. Similarly, status and prestige are often more important than money. These personal traits lead to delays in decision making. Added to that is the impression of a general lack of appreciation of time and scheduling. This is often interpreted as general lack of enthusiasm and many a deal have wilted in the bud because of this problem. The geographical distance, time difference and cultural difference compound the problem.

Management of business in Arabia will work on the traditional "family" system where the merchant patriarch of the family has almost total control over decision making. Most often than not the owners initiate all projects, authorise all expenditure including petty cash, sign all cheques and have every minor decision referred to them. This family structure again can lead to delays in decision making and, at times, cancellation of an entire project without any explanation or adequate warning. This of course was also common in the great family "dynasties" in the development of American business prior to the evolution of a more corporate style of management.

Americans, who are used to direct negotiations, find that the need to deal through middleman/agent in business negotiations perhaps inexplicable and certainly frustrating at times. With exposes such as the Iran-contra affair the term "agent" has come to acquire an almost negative connotation. But employing an agent in business dealings is viewed as a perfectly legitimate and often mandatory practice in the Arab World to be it in importing, distribution or tendering.

A more convincing and positive approach is to become involved on a joint-venture basis with an Arab organisation of stature and repute. This is especially so when dealing with professional services where personal integrity and repute is of paramount importance.

Arabs are often very cautious and indeed suspicious in their initial business dealings. The welter of competing technologies and pricing, have reinforced this and consequently tendering conditions are now overwhelmingly in favour of the government and client and not suppliers. Some American businessmen may find this unpalatable, but this is a fact they have to live with.

U.S. firms which deal in high-tech may sometimes be in for a surprise when they discover that the other side is not fully geared to take in all the nuances and fine details of the technical discussions. This is to be expected as the majority of the Arab businesses do not have that kind of exposure to high-tech. Similarly business and institutions are relatively small and western-style service functions, such as advertising, market research and personnel, which do not directly yield income, are considered wholly unnecessary.

Another aspect that has to be borne in mind during business negotiations is that, while the U.S. side attaches due importance to the legal side of the contract the Arab side may not. Initially representatives may consist of only technical staff sans lawyer and this may later lead to further complications because of different interpretations and hence more delay. To make the matters worse, there are unavoidable problems because of language difficulties. Unlike French, Spanish or Italian, Arabic is a completely different system — both spoken and written. Reliable translations are not easy to obtain.

How can impediments be reduced?

The U.S. side

A great deal might be gained from a more balanced U.S. Middle East policy, and there are many areas of common interest which could be built upon.

On the Arab side, the need to preserve the links with the U.S. and to maintain a balanced relationship, notwithstanding the formidable political obstacles, has often been demonstrated in the restraining influence exerted by moderate Arab states in times of crises. There are presently positive indications of a diplomatic initiative in the Middle East regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and when the United States puts the past behind it and starts talking to the Palestinians, I am sure it can expect the other side to be equally cooperative.

There is a definite need to create a general awareness in the U.S. public regarding the positive aspects of the Arab society. Scare-stories regarding the security in the region and Arab bashing in the media is certainly not going to help. You would be surprised to note how well informed any average Arab is regarding the U.S.; but the same cannot be said about the Americans.

The U.S. will have to avoid protectionist measures for energy-related products from the region. There is also a need to appreciate the economic importance of the region just as with the other trading partners in Europe and Japan.

The willingness of American educational institutions to enroll a large number of students from the Arab states is one of the finest aspect of cooperation and this should be further enhanced in order to secure the link in the transfer of management and technological skills. Indeed if the U.S. is going to get its share of the growing Arab market for professional services then this is absolutely essential.

American companies will have to shift more of their attention from the sale of consumer goods to services, particularly training and management programmes. American financial institutions will have to work on a more equal basis in venture financing with their counterparts in the Arab World, and impediments to growing Arab banking activities in the U.S. will have to be removed.

The Arab side

The Arab side will have to get a better understanding of the ways of the Western world in general. But in particular relation to professional services there is a crying need to establish proper standards, to set up professional organisations and institutions, to streamline and tighten up legislation particularly regarding professional services and above all to increase their commitment to train and qualify skilled personnel. This is so important — and it is an area where the U.S. can help — that I would like to spend some time elaborating upon it.

Role of professional organisations

Now that most of the Arab countries have completed their initial programme to build up the infrastructure — a feat they have achieved in one decade which took others well over a century to do — their next main task is to develop their most precious commodity, the human resources. As I often say, our greatest resource is our people.

The current Arab population is estimated at about 190 million. Also, this population is young, a fact which in itself is of much significance, for example, those under 15 constitute 45 per cent of the population compared to Europe where this group is less than 25 per cent. Our population is growing at a robust rate of 2.5 per cent annum and here again, for example, the annual growth rate in the OECD is less than 1 per cent. So while the industrial North by the turn of the century will be faced with the problem of perhaps disinvestment in education and the need for a smaller younger population to fund the economic and social welfare of an aging population, the Arab World can look forward to a young dynamic people eager to take on the challenges of the 21st century.

One of the major growth areas in the Arab World is education. The Arab countries have, therefore, made considerable financial sacrifices to develop their educational systems — between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of GNP. Compulsory education for children is fast eliminating illiteracy while, at the same time, higher education is developing at a rapid rate. The number of pupils attending primary schools has risen from 7 million in 1960 to 25 million in 1984; the number of university students from 163,000 in 1960 to almost 2 million in 1984. By the turn of the century, there will be 45 million children in primary schools, 23 million in secondary schools and 4 to 5 million at universities and colleges.

I derive great pride from the thought that the Arab civilisation which contributed so much in the past to the advancement of mankind in the science and the arts are now again so committed to educational development. This has generated the current dynamism that I feel and is one of the reasons that makes me enthusiastic about our future. Many of these young educated will be attracted into and indeed are needed for the various professional services. To ensure that we get our fair share of the best there must be a proper professional infrastructure for them.

I envision a significant role for the Arab professional firms in the development of human resources of our region. My own firm, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International, which has offices all over the Arab World as well as here in New York and in Europe, realised early on the daunting tasks that lie ahead in this sphere. We specialise in accounting, management and industrial consulting and trade marks and patents registration. These fields were in a sort of disarray and so we embarked on organising adequate professional institutions to qualify and train students and professionals in these vital spheres.

The future

In addition to the growth in population the Arab economies are set to grow and at rates faster than in Europe or North America. A recently held world energy conference in New Delhi pointed out that the per capita GNP in the Middle East would in real terms by 2020 be more than double what it was in 1978 and that assumes no significant change in the world economic situation. If the world economic scene were to improve the GNP in 2020 could be four times what it was in 1978.

The development of stock exchanges and financial markets and the increasing scale of business will lead to wide share ownership and while the family company will always be important in the Arab World we can foresee continuing increases in the number of listed public companies.

All of these developments will lead to a greater demand for the complete range of professional services.

Arab professional firms will continue to increase both in size and in the diversity of service they offer. Many of our clients will move beyond the Arab World and will invest in, establish and acquire businesses in other parts of the world and they will expect us to provide them with service they require. Just as European and American professionals followed their clients so we will be expected to follow ours. I trust that as we do so we will be given the same opportunities and help to develop there as others have been given to develop in the Arab World.

All said and done the U.S. now has a more mature economic relationship with the Arab states and hopefully this will spread to political front. The region has diversified markets, a growing industrial base for energy related exports, an under-utilized but trainable indigenous workforce, a growing entrepreneurial class committed to free enterprise, and an expanding of international financial banking capability.

I would really want to leave you on a bright and optimistic note. Americans and Arabs have had a long and fruitful association, though marred at times due to lack of proper appreciation of each others positions. Global circumstances have again cast us, the people of these two great nations, together to work towards mutual security, cooperation and prosperity. Let us work towards it with goodwill. We do know that you are fine and honourable partners, and we would want you to appreciate us as such.

Palestinians head 'ship of return'

(Continued from page 1)

oppression and aggression," Sayeh said. He pointed out that none of the passengers on board would be carrying any weapons. "We are carrying... not even stones, which are the weapons of the Palestinians in the occupied territories," he said.

"We are ready for any action Israel may take against us; even if they arrest us or if they sink the ship... We want to tell the world that we demand peace, but they (Israelis) are against peace in this region, as is the U.S. that is supporting the Israelis in their position."

He declined to disclose the name or identify the owners of the ship, following the cancellation of an earlier voyage planned aboard a Greek car ferry last week. Owners of the car ferry Silver Paloma, which was due to sail Tuesday, cancelled the trip last Thursday without giving any reason.

Member of the PNC and the executive committee of the General Union of Palestinian Women Khadija Habashneh Abu Ali told the Jordan Times later Tuesday that the owners of the Silver Paloma were threatened by the Israelis. "Even the Greek government has come under fierce attack from Israel for failing to ban the PLO voyage," Abu Ali said.

Abu Ali said she hopes that the world will take a firm stand against deportation and occupation. "The Palestinian people have been forced to move around, but in the end they will ultimately return to their homeland," she said.

PLO spokesman have said that the "ship of return" will call at Larnaca, Cyprus, and Port Saïd, Egypt, before dropping anchor at Haifa.

Asked who else would be aboard the ship other than the Palestinians, Sayeh would only say that 400 to 500 personalities from all over the world who are involved in the Palestinian cause and struggle would be on board.

Reports have said former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, Bishop Jacques Gaillet of Evreux, France, British socialist politician Lord Christopher Mayhew and two U.S. congressional aides who were not named are expected to be among the ship's passengers.

The head of the PLO mission in Athens, Fuad Bittar, was quoted as saying last week that plans to stop at Larnaca to pick up sympathisers from the Jewish community were still in effect. Sayeh said Tuesday the duration of the trip depends "on what happens."

"Our faith will protect us," he said.

High spirits

The Jordan Times found the Palestinians heading for Athens in high spirits, though most were not expecting to reach Haifa.

Khalil Hassan Al Sawtari, a writer who was expelled in 1969, said: "The thought of returning to my homeland fills me with great happiness though I have little hope we will return on this trip. Nevertheless, this trip is one of the best ideas, especially after U.N. resolutions condemned expulsions."

Fayek Mohammad Warrad, a PNC member and the second "official" deportee in 1967, said: "This is an international demonstration which brings together people fighting for freedom and peace. It is a demonstration which supports our people and our just cause. We may or may not reach our homeland; this is a campaign which has begun and we don't know where it will end."

Murphy arrives in Israel from Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

"All the parties in the area have to move. We are committed to be active, to continue our efforts," the assistant secretary of state told reporters after briefing Hosni Mubarak on his talks in Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Murphy refused to reveal details of Washington's latest ideas on how to achieve peace.

He said he and Mubarak discussed U.S. and Egyptian interest in keeping up momentum towards a comprehensive settle-

ment. "We all have to move. This is not an effort that is going ahead just because of an American investment of energy or an Egyptian investment of energy," he said.

Murphy's remarks gave no hint that he had made any headway in Damascus and Riyadh.

Three days of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad failed to shake Syria's insistence that any solution be based on Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967.

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Hundreds of athletes converge on Calgary with glimpse of gold

CALGARY (AP) — The Olympic flame blew its top in a premature pop of excitement as the fur-wrapped Soviets, brightly garbed Americans and hundreds of athletes from around the world arrived at the snow-dusted Winter Games.

Toting skates, skis and other gear, the athletes heightened the mood of anticipation Monday, five days before the opening ceremonies, and brought life and col-

our to this flat, frozen city on the edge of the Rockies. Residents and fans jammed the airport, cheering the athletes and beseeching them for autographs with the same enthusiasm that has marked the Winter Games for six decades.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

Neither the explosion in the Olympic flame cauldron during a test lighting, which caused minor damage and no injuries, nor a last-minute scramble to help tourists, who could be stranded by a bankrupt tour company, dampened spirits.

Giggling schoolchildren dined and posed with Prince Albert of Monaco, a member of a two-man bobsled team. The 29-year-old son of the late Princess Grace Kelly and heir to the throne occupied by his father, Prince Ranier, said he would feel "mar-

vellous" if he finished among the top 25 teams after taking up the sport only three years ago.

Hardy fans watched ski jumpers soar through the falling snowflakes in a workout session, while nearby, workers shovelled snow under the ramp as part of the final preparations.

Several snowfalls over the past weeks have assured good skiing during the games, but officials were pleased to see a new coat of white blanket the city for the second consecutive day.

"It'll create a little work for us out on the trails," Nordic venue chairman John Rule said, "but that's no problem. We need a little cosmetic snowfall. It'll tidy a few things up."

By day's end, more than half of the 1,684 athletes from 57 countries had arrived, and security in and around the Olympic village stiffened.

Even as they were settling in, many of the athletes were focusing on their conditioning and their competition.

"Right now, I feel I'm about ninety per cent ready," said American speed skating prospect Nick Thometz, who missed some training with a blood disorder. "We've got a week of training here, and that should help me get into top shape."

The Americans, wearing brilliantly coloured nylon jackets and waving tiny U.S. flags at the airport, contrasted with the Soviet hockey players, who arrived bundled in thick, brown fur coats and hats.

Soviet assistant hockey coach Igor Dmitriyev, whose team is favoured to win the gold, said he expects very tight competition because the world's top hockey-playing nations have improved so



The slopes of Calgary

much in recent years.

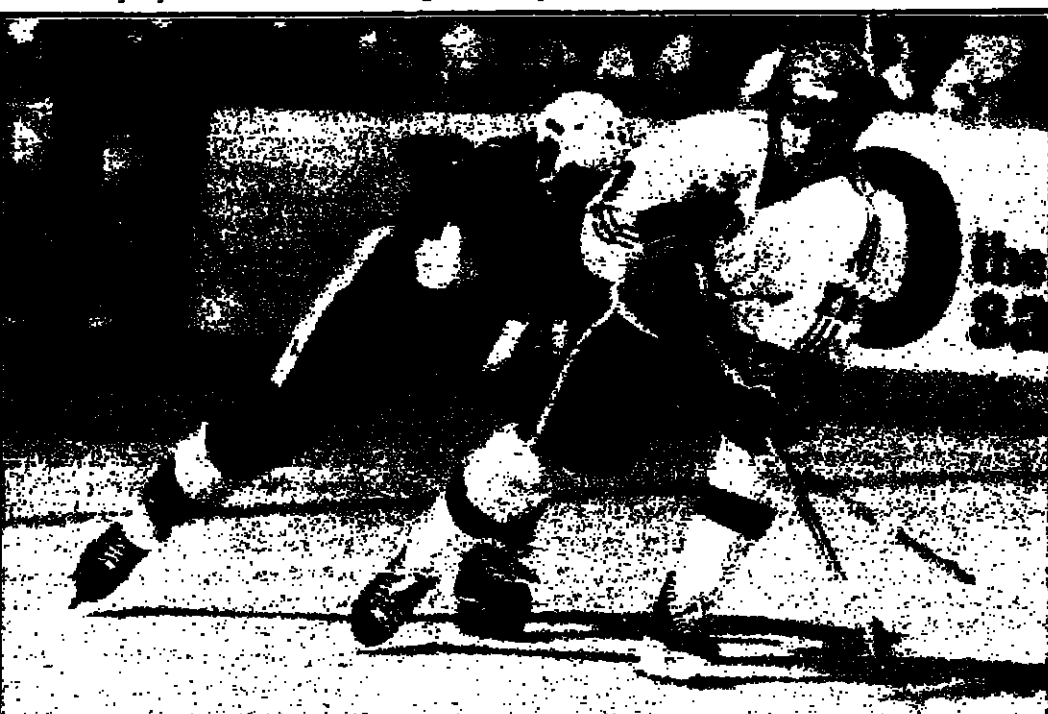
Samaranch assails drug use

A serious note was injected into the day by Juan Antonio

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, who spoke out strongly against drug use.

Drug abuse by athletes, he

said, "makes a mockery of the very essence of sport," and he called for continued vigilance against "cheaters."



The Soviet Union's leading ice hockey star Igor Larinov

Heir to Monaco's throne is an avid bobsledder

CALGARY (AP) — He is called, formally, his serene highness, Prince Albert of Monaco, but as he hurtles down the bobsled track at 135 kilometres per hour, his heart pounding and the ice walls a blur, he is anything but serene.

"You feel the air and you feel the speed and you're sort of hit by every corner," he said Monday, his voice quickening with excitement. "It's all going pretty fast in front of you, but you know where you are at all times."

His blue eyes are wide open and his breath is suspended for most of the near-mile run, and when he roars into some hairpin turns — "when you first get the G-force," he said — it's a little hard to focus for a moment.

The son of the late Princess Grace and heir to the throne occupied by his father, Prince Ranier, slim, young Albert is lending a touch of royalty to these Winter Olympics in a most un-royal sport.

Bobsledding, which began as a diversion for wealthy Europeans in St. Moritz, has evolved into a high-tech, high-speed adventure aboard sleek, aerodynamically crafted sleds.

Albert, a bachelor who turns 30 next month, has more responsibilities than his teammates and competitors.

He is one of the youngest members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and has been busy attending the group's 93rd session. He is the only active IOC member competing in the games and the first since Finnish yachtsman Peter Talberg in 1980.

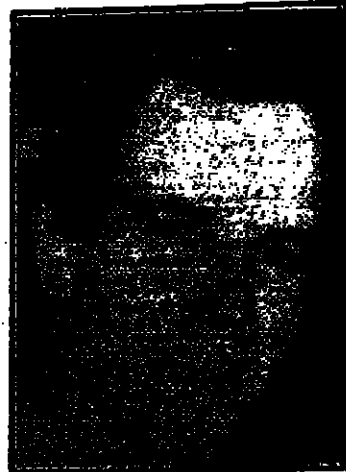
As president of the Monaco Red Cross Society, he met with 19 schoolchildren Monday as part of a cultural exchange project with the Canadian Red Cross Society.

When the annual IOC meeting is over, Albert will move from a hotel suite to the more spartan quarters of the Olympic village, joining his teammates and athletes of other nations.

"I think in order to get a fully Olympic experience, one has to live in the village, and I'm certainly looking forward to that," he said.

The prince, 1.82 metres tall and 76 kilos, is no newcomer to sports, nor is he here as a mere dilettante.

Many-splendoured sportsman — As a youth, before going to Amherst college in Massachusetts and earning a bachelor of science degree in 1981, he was a middle-distance runner, rower, football



Prince Albert

player and swimmer. He also earned a black belt in judo.

His official biography notes, too, achievements in tennis, riding, skiing, squash, golf, sailing and windsurfing. Bobsledding joined the list a few years ago.

He saw the event for the first time at the 1980 games at Lake Placid. Soon afterwards, he took a guest run with an experienced bobsledder and got hooked.

For the past three years, the prince has gone to "driving schools" to learn the subtleties of two-man bobsledding — mainly, how to go fast without getting killed.

"I think it's a fascinating sport in that it combines a strong athletic ability and a totally different side, which is more concentration and sensitivity and just feeling your weight on the track," he said. "And, of course, the speed element is very appealing to me."

The dangers of the sport, he feels, are exaggerated, although he doesn't ignore the possible perils of flipping over at break-neck speed.

"I've crashed four times over the past 2½ seasons," he said. "They were all very minor crashes, just a couple of bruises here and there, nothing really to worry about. That's just part of the sport. One isn't considered a true bobsledder if one hasn't crashed."

Prince Albert said his father hasn't tried to talk him out of bobsledding, and will come to Calgary next week to watch.

Albert has no illusions about winning this year in a sport dominated by the East Germans and Swiss.

"If we're anywhere between 20th and 25th, that'll be just marvellous for us. I mean, with relatively little experience in the sport we can't expect to be too high."

Cash gives Australia 3-2 Davis Cup victory

MEXICO CITY (R) — Pat Cash overpowered Francisco "Pancho" Maciel 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 Monday to give Australia a 3-2 victory over Mexico in their first round World Group Davis Cup tie.

Falling back on his powerful serve when his groundstrokes failed him, Cash demoralised Maciel and the rowdy local crowd to carry Australia into the second round against France in April.

"I felt that I would win all the time," Cash said after the match in Mexico City's Club Aleman.

"I wasn't going to lose, no way," said the confident Australian, ranked seventh in the world.

The Mexicans, who had hoped that Maciel would pull off a mira-

culous upset against the Wimbledon champion, are now faced with a relegation playoff against Switzerland in April.

With the tie level at 2-2, Cash and Maciel split the first two sets of the final match Sunday before it was suspended due to darkness.

When the match resumed Monday, Maciel took a quick lead when he broke Cash's serve in the first game as the crowd chanted "Mexico Mexico Mexico."

But before Maciel — and the crowd — could build any momentum, Cash broke right back to level the third set.

Cash, who was able to hold his serve for the remainder of the match, delivered eight aces.

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Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the UAE (second from right), his co-driver Ronan Morgan of Ireland (fourth from left) and their Toyota Celica Turbo and support team.

UAE's Ibn Sulayem seeded number one in Qatar rally

DUBAI (Agencies) — Middle East rally champion Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of Dubai is seeded number one in the Qatar International Rally which will be held Feb. 11-12. Ibn Sulayem, navigated by Ronan Morgan of Ireland, will drive his Toyota Celica

Turbo, while second-seeded Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar will drive an Audi Quattro.

Although the number of entries is limited, the competition is expected to be very tough, especially in four or five areas where the endurance of the vehicles

and the expertise of the drivers will be tested to the utmost extent.

"The Qatar International Rally has already generated a great deal of interest and excitement among rally enthusiasts in the Middle East," said David Stone,

the rally director earlier this week.

He added: "We've had to literally carve stage one out of the desert — that'll be a particularly interesting challenge for the drivers."

Two controversies spoil Tate's victory against Sibson

LONDON (AP) — Despite the merits of Frank Tate's tenth round knockout victory over Britain's Tony Sibson, Sunday's fight was pushed into the background by two controversies that occurred outside the ring.

As the 23-year-old American returned home Monday with his International Boxing Federation (IBF) middleweight belt, British boxing officials were faced with the recurring problem of fan violence while the IBF considered its stance over 15-round title fights.

The British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) promised an inquiry into the violence scenes before the fight, staged at the Bingley Hall, Stafford in central

England. Fights broke out and CS gas filled the arena as ticketless fans tried to gatecrash the show. Two canisters of the gas exploded and scores of fans and ringside guests were seen in discomfort from the fumes.

Police made 17 arrests and the fight was held up for ten minutes while the tear-producing chemicals dispersed. One man appeared in court Monday charged with possessing an offensive weapon. — A CS gas canister — while Staffordshire police said they were holding 16 other fans on assault and public order charges.

It was the latest in a series of violence-marred world title fights

in Britain. Previous incidents occurred at fights featuring middleweight champion Marvin Hagler, heavyweight Tim Witherspoon, welterweight Don Curry and featherweight Azumah Nelson.

John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said his organisation would hold a full inquiry. He added, however, "you cannot do much about people who come in intent on causing trouble."

The British board, which limits all title fights to a maximum 12 rounds for safety reasons, at first refused to sanction the card because the world title contest origi-

nally was over 15 rounds.

On the eve of the fight, the IBF relented and cut the fight to 12, allowing the board to provide officials for the undercard. But the issue is set to surface again in two weeks time when another American IBF champion, Charles Williams, flies to London to defend his light heavyweight crown against Britain's Tom Collins.

That will involve Lee in a rematch with the board officials who again will insist on a 12-round maximum for the Feb. 20 contest at Blazer's nightclub, Windsor, near London.

Morris said there would be no climbdown by his organisation.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

By February 15, the Philippine embassy will not verify and authenticate employment contracts of female domestic helpers; And by March 1, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration in Manila will not verify nor process employment contracts of female domestic helpers.

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Governor affirms soundness of Jordan's financial system, advocates liberalism

In the following article, published in Jordan magazine, Central Bank of Jordan (CBI) Governor Hussein Al Qasem outlines to Rami Khouri some of the important current financial aspects in Jordan and the measures (to be) taken by the CBI to ensure sound credibility of the country.

Question: With the continued increase in banking activities, do you plan to permit new banks or more branches of existing banks to open?

Answer: We are in the final stages of reviewing the entire structure of the banking system and will soon forward to the government and the parliament a new draft banking law. It is designed partly to introduce new supervision methods that will meet emerging needs and also keep up with sophisticated banking supervision practices around the world. We feel we have enough commercial banks and investment companies and, therefore, will not license any new banks. New branches will be allowed in areas of the country where the need is real.

Our policy has been and continues to be one of encouraging mergers among smaller institutions, whether banks, finance companies, money changers or other financial services institutions. We want to see larger institutions, with more depth of management and a stronger capital base.

Q: Do you expect more foreign banks to come into Jordan or any to leave the market?

A: No, we feel the foreign banks in Jordan are sufficient for the moment, and those that are here are doing well. All foreign banks have complied with the new JD 5 million minimum capital requirement, in return for which they have the opportunity to open more branches in Amman and throughout the country, should they wish to do so.

Q: Do you feel there is a need to change the policy of the Jordanian dinar's parity to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of the International Monetary Fund?

A: No, we feel the dinar's peg to the SDR has served us well in terms of maintaining the dinar's value and alleviating extreme fluctuations. We will also continue allowing the dinar to be purchased forward. Our policy is to be very liberal in foreign exchange control policies. We allow Jordanians to take out of the country enough money to cover needs such as medical treatment abroad, education or travel and have also raised to JD 100,000 the amount of foreign exchange which a Jordanian can maintain in Jordan. And we are committed to our policy of allowing non-residents, such as foreigners in Jordan or Jordanians abroad, to deal in foreign exchange in Jordan without limits and at international rates.

Q: In its role as banker to the government, will the Central Bank introduce new debt instruments?

A: For the first time, we are issuing treasury notes on behalf of the government, which provide investors with a new investment instrument other than the long-term development bonds or the short-term treasury bills. The treasury notes are for two years, at an interest rate of 5.5 per cent today, though it was seven per cent when we started issuing the notes in late 1986. We have issued about JD 24 million in notes in 1987.

Q: Jordan has a relatively low rate of non-performing loans on the books of commercial banks, thought to be around 10 per cent. What is the Central Bank doing to make sure this ratio remains low and that the commercial banks remain healthy?

A: We have always put great emphasis on bank supervision and every month receive reports from the banks and finance companies detailing their assets and liabilities. We have increased our spot checks of the banks' books, and have worked out with the banks a

uniform system of classifying loans and identifying problem loans before they become a risk to the bank's balance sheet. This year, we started asking the banks to provide us with audited interim results in June of each year. And, as usual, we are being very strict about making sure that all banks have made adequate provisions for doubtful debts before they distribute dividends to shareholders.

Q: Some bankers complain that the interest rate structure is too rigid, and would like to see rates floated. What is your view?

A: We feel that the interest rate structure can only be amended gradually. We started doing this in 1986, when we lowered interest rates on loans and deposits, to reflect the zero inflation rate in the country and to stay in line with international rates. We also floated completely the interest paid on deposits of over JD 200,000, as a trial and first step towards a more flexible and more liberal interest rate structure. We are now thinking of dropping this float limit to deposits of over JD 100,000.

Q: In the current economic slowdown in Jordan and the region, do you feel that there is danger of a credit squeeze?

A: Not at all. The facts show that deposits and credits have both been increasing steadily during the past several years of slower economic growth. People prefer to invest in financial assets during a slow growing period, and our policy is designed in part to encourage people to invest in real assets, in order to promote real economic growth and development.

We noticed, for example, that when we dropped interest rates last year, more money found its way into stock market investments.

We are also working to promote exports, by refinancing credits that banks provide for exports. The longest time frame we are financing is nine months, at five per cent interest; and in the first half of last year, we provided tens of millions of dinars in this way. The outstanding balance in June was JD 16.59 million. There is no problem with credit for good clients and sound projects. The banks have ample funds, and are being very professional in analysing risk and lending appropriately.

We also noticed that the main monetary indicators staged an improvement in 1986, as domestic liquidity (money supply) grew by 10.5 per cent. We believe this improvement was spurred by the policies pursued by the Central Bank over the past few years, which have aimed at augmenting the liquidity of the banking system and strengthening the capital base of commercial banks, in order to enhance their capacity to provide medium and long term loans. These policies aim to stimulate more domestic investment, which will continue to tide the Jordanian economy over the regional recession that has prevailed since 1983.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libyans recruit Jordanian doctors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Libyan government team is in Amman selecting Jordanian physicians and medical specialists for prospective employment in Libya. The team, which embarked on its mission Tuesday, is due to end the selection process Thursday. Selection of Jordanian doctors for work in Libya is being conducted at the Ministry of Health.

Jordanian phosphate output rises 11%

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) last month produced 576,095 tonnes of dry phosphate against 522,963 tonnes in the same month of last year, according to a JPMC official. He said that the company's production from Al Hassa mine in southern Jordan last month amounted to 328,459 and from Wadi Al Abiad 247,636 tonnes.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities continued firm in late trading after an early 12 point jump on Wall Street, but volume was still low on nagging worries about the outlook for U.K. interest rates and the current bout of industrial unrest, dealers said.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up a net 11.7 at 1,706.2 after rising fairly steadily from its 1,700.0 opening, but was off its high of 1,711.8, reached just after the U.S. opening, on light profit-taking.

On Monday, the index slumped 43.3 points on a belief that domestic interest rates will rise in the near term. Turnover was a modest 258 million shares traded by 1500 GMT.

Despite Tuesday's firmer trend, which to a large extent reflected traders' make-ups, the bulk of institutional investors are still happy to keep their cash in safer fixed interest instruments such as the short-term money market and gilts.

A leading trader at a U.K. brokerage house said a recent survey on institutional liquidity showed it was extremely high, but the uncertainty about the short-term path of the market was keeping this surplus cash out of volatile equities.

S. Arabia privatises petrochemical sector

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia is opening up its petrochemical industry to the private sector, a move that could send a new generation of cheap products flooding onto world markets.

Saudi businessmen say billions of dollars sent abroad during the oil boom could be lured home for investment in what has become the hot spot in an economy reeling from declining government oil revenues.

"A major hold-up of the private sector now seems to be abating," said one industry source.

Over the last year or so, the ministry of industry has awarded a series of licences to private companies to build plants, and government officials say many other large projects are on the way.

A visionary plan in the 1970s aimed to diversify the Saudi economy from its near total dependence on oil, and over the last ten years two industrial cities, Jubail and Yanbu, were carved out of the desert on either side of the east-west oil pipeline running from the Gulf to the Red Sea.

About a dozen state-owned petrochemical plants and oil refineries were built to convert natural gas and crude oil to petrochemicals and refined oil products. Their output was designed to spawn a generation of intermediate plants and later a

myriad of light industries.

But private businessmen say that, until recently, their attempts to get a piece of the action had been thwarted, and that this was hindering development of the cities as a whole.

"When you drive through Yanbu you see all these empty plots of land that were supposed to have had downstream plants on them," said an executive of a private Saudi corporation. "The lack of construction at Jubail and Yanbu is directly related to the private sector's inability to get at them."

Licences to build the downstream plants were originally given to the state-controlled Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), which, according to Saudi businessmen, was loath to give them up even if it didn't have the resources to go it alone.

One industry source says at least 30 private projects have been submitted without being given a go-ahead. "There was never any flat out rejection, but this was part of the problem."

While government officials admit to a delay, they say licences were held back mainly to give SABIC time to prepare a master

plan for the petrochemical industry.

But, late last year, three licences were awarded to the Saudi Venture Capital Group (SVCG), formed in 1986 by 30 Saudi investors and a local joint venture with the U.S. Fluor Corporation.

SVCG is to build a 677 million riyal (\$180 million) plant to produce 67,660 tonnes per year of maleic anhydride, a raw material used in pesticides and other products.

It will also build a 600 million riyal (\$160 million) plant to produce 34,245 tonnes per year of polyethylene resins and resinsoids, a plastic used in making bottles.

A third plant will produce one million tonnes per year of aromatics, used to make polyester resins. The local Saudi Amoudi Group has a licence for a second, smaller maleic anhydride plant and the recently-formed Safra Ltd. of Jeddah will build a \$35 million plant to produce 70,000 tonnes of solvents per year.

Government officials say another two licences were awarded for formaldehyde plants and SABIC has agreed to make polypropylene with SVCG.

Saudis say capital-intensive petrochemicals, which rely on cheap energy and feedstock but require relatively little manpower, are the perfect industry for the desert kingdom.

During the peak of the oil boom, the Saudis were bringing

in around \$2 billion a week in oil revenue. Much of the money fell into the hands of businessmen who invested it overseas, but who now say they are anxious to bring it back home to invest.

Industry sources say that because of the Gulf war, most — if not all — the investment will be made in Yanbu safely on the far side of the Arabian Peninsula.

Businessmen still await word on other potentially lucrative industries such as acrylonitrile, isopropanol, acetone, isoprene, vinyl acetate and polyisoprene.

The product of the new plants is used to make goods ranging from polyesters, carpets, nylon and films to pesticides, paints, adhesives and detergents — and Saudi industry planners hope that new industries will be set up to make them locally.

However, investors say the bulk of production will be sent to international markets, especially in the Far East and Europe.

Until now, products from Jubail and Yanbu's first generation of petrochemical plants have had their access to European and U.S. markets hindered by tariffs.

Saudi officials hope that by diversifying the product range the country will have more flexibility in negotiations abroad.

"The less cooperation we get from the West on tariffs the more we will concentrate on developing our own industry," one senior government official told Reuters.

U.S. criticises partners, rejects protectionism

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) —

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker criticised America's trading partners Monday for not importing more U.S. goods but said protectionist curbs were not the answer to the nation's trade deficit.

In a speech to the National Cotton Council of America, Baker said the attitude of many successful exporting nations that imports were bad represented a major threat to global economic prosperity.

"This perspective poses a serious threat to a trading system that is based on a belief in the benefits of open market and expanded trade," Baker said.

Although he mentioned no names, Baker appeared to be taking aim at countries like Japan and West Germany which have run up record trade surpluses with the United States.

He also attacked the new industrial giants of the developing world for contributing to trade imbalances by being too slow to buy more American goods.

Once again, Baker did not say which countries he had in mind, but other U.S. officials have been very critical of what they see as restrictive trade practices by the "four dragons" of Asia — South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Baker said the way forward was through hardheaded negotiations, not protectionism.

"Pressure to adjust U.S. trade policy must not take a negative, unilateral form. Trade liberalisation is achievable, and we will prosper from it," Baker said.

He held out as a model the U.S.-Canada free trade pact signed last month which will reduce tariffs and eliminate other barriers to the flow of goods

between the world's two largest trading partners.

Bilateral trade between the United States and Canada was \$127 billion in 1986, exceeding the \$107 billion of goods traded with Japan and the \$126 billion in two-way trade between America and the 12 nations of the European Community.

The free trade pact, which must still be approved by legislators in both countries, should reduce protectionist pressures and spur other nations to free trade, Baker said.

He hoped trade barriers would be dismantled under the auspices of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs

and Trade, the world trade watchdog body. But Baker said Washington was willing to explore bilateral or "multilateral" trade pacts if necessary.

"If activity on one frontier of trade negotiations slows, we may be able to maintain momentum and achieve solutions worthy of imitation through other agreements," he said.

Other countries, such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, had expressed interest in negotiating trade pacts.

"This interest gives the next administration an opportunity to set trade policy on a creative, positive, and pragmatic international course," Baker said.

Soviets complain about prospective price increases

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet

citizens sounded off to Pravda about their fears of higher prices in an article Monday that indicated the issue is one of the most touchy aspects of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

Pravda said it receives more letters from readers about planned price increases than just about any other subject. It asked Anatoly Komin, deputy head of the State Price Committee, to respond.

"Of course, I understand that the economy is in a difficult situation, but what is going to be done for those people who have a hard time making ends meet?" asked M. Marzoyev of Nizhnekamsk.

"From our school benches they've told us that in the West food prices are very high, but that

our government supports prices at a low level. Now are we trying to 'catch up' with the West in this respect?" he asked.

Other readers complained about the current prices of bread, boots, their per diem compensation for business trips, and expressed their fears of how they will manage when prices rise.

Soviet officials say they will work out by 1990 a programme to increase prices. Officials say the government spends about 60 billion roubles (about \$100 billion) a year to subsidise food prices alone.

Restructuring of prices is part of an overall effort to make the costs and income of state-run businesses correspond, and free up more resources to modernise the Soviet economy.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be considerate and open-minded to day, and don't try to force your opinions on anyone. You may encounter an opportunity for which you've been waiting, so be quick to take advantage of it.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep your mind focused on happy, cheerful thoughts, and you'll be able to present your ideas more clearly. Don't let your mate upset you.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen to any suggestions from a superior, but avoid a demanding associate. Be sure to finish any projects you start this morning.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be very cautious when handling the details of your work, or you could make a costly mistake. Don't put any pressure on your co-workers.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't try to force your views on your family; listen to their opinions before making decisions. Don't run off on any tangents.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) An opportunity through which you can benefit greatly will become apparent today. Be very careful where your health is concerned.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) This is not a good day to go out visiting or shopping unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must go out, be very careful while driving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with an old friend for a day of pleasant recreation, but don't spend too much money. Be more romantic with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Proceed with any new projects you've been considering, but if you need any financial advice, be sure to seek out an expert's opinion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to handle any written communications very carefully. You may discover a new business contact this evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Avoid a person who likes to preach and never listens to any opposing viewpoints. Try to please your mate by being more considerate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good friend can help you gain your aims today, so don't be afraid to rely on this person. You can gain some personal wishes easily today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Ask advice from a superior who can help you modernize your activities. Don't listen to any caustic remarks from a new acquaintance.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Coburn

ACROSS

- Cloche and tam
- Israeli Dayan
- Danube feeder
- Soviet sea
- Mountain nymph
- Moniker
- Leave hastily
- Bumpkin
- Pileus
- Babies at times
- Verge
- Dress
- Tasteful
- Long time period
- Cold molded dish
- Women's magazine
- Deviations
- One — million
- Fibber
- Take off
- Musical
- At all
- Method
- Facial problem
- Seat back
- Aviv
- Throbbled
- Even keel
- Upe
- Rapid gait
- Melodious
- Gaelic
- Quite obvious
- Pronounce
- Indistinctly
- Surfaces
- Prong
- Saltack and Hankie
- Corundum
- Gregorian
- Down
- Emotors
- "I smell —"
- Sets
- More
- soloncel

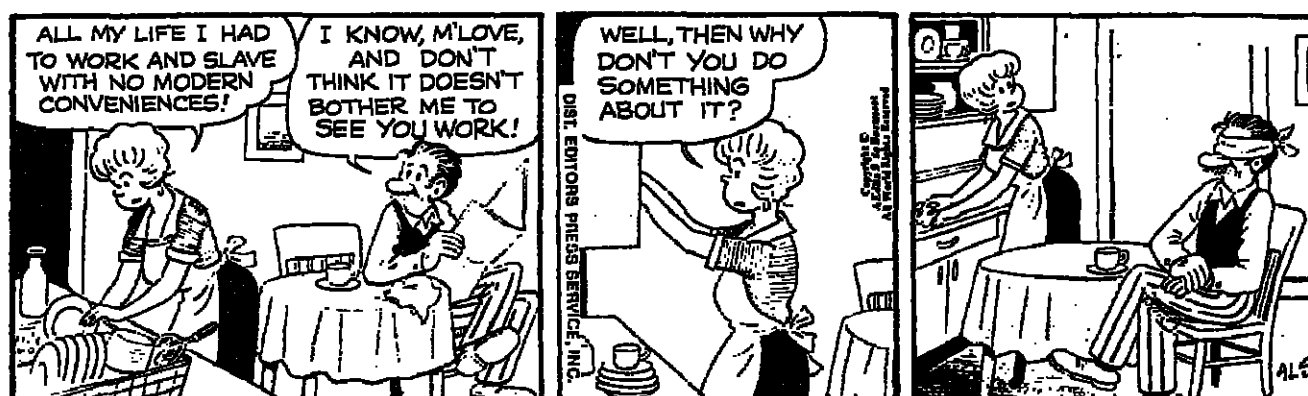
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

5 A code
6 Mouths
7 Religious body
8 Cod cousin
9 Ford model
10 Crawls
11 Line of patter
12 Cupid
13 Cincinatti
14 team
15 Walked on
16 Socialite
17 Silghast
18 Of the soft palate
19 Style of dress
20 Feign death
21 Speak pompously
22 Books
23 Nonsensical
24 Beat
25 Ron of TV
26 Dream
27 Celebration
28 Church room
29 Rebuff
30 Matriculates
31 Geologic rock
32 mass
33 Garden flower
34 Celebration
35 Vocation
36 Seafood item
37 Garfield's
38 pal
39 Yamen city
40 Ogger
41 Vocation
42 suffix

Peanuts



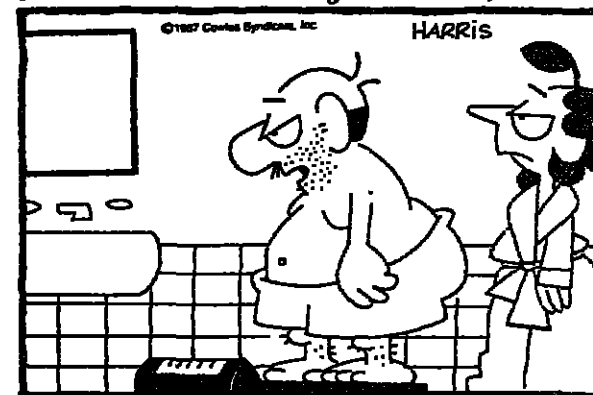
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RADOH
ZIPER
INSENG
PASHIM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THEY OUR " (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: DRYLY BATCH SIZZLE COUPLE.
Answer: What that first telephone conversation was — A CLOSE CALL

Noriega calls for pullout of U.S. forces from Panama

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega, infuriated by U.S. drug trafficking charges, has called for the withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Panama.

Noriega, indicted in Florida last week on charges of drug smuggling and racketeering, said the charges were politically motivated and backed a Panama Defence Forces (PDF) call for the U.S. Southern Command to withdraw.

"The U.S. military presence here... is geared to gain power. The military presence should be strictly Panamanian," Noriega said on national television Monday night.

"We reject the Southern Command. It constitutes more aggression against Panama," he said. He was surrounded by PDF officers and diplomats recalled from the United States and the United Nations after the indictments.

There are approximately 10,000 U.S. military personnel in Panama, which serves as headquarters for U.S. military operations throughout Central and South America.

A Southern Command spokesman said the force was also responsible for the protection and defence of the Panama Canal.

Before Noriega's address, a PDF spokesman called for the withdrawal of the Southern Command saying its presence was not contemplated by the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty.

"Their presence is a manifestation of the U.S. interest in protecting its power in this hemisphere... and is in violation of the neutrality of the Panama Canal Treaty," the spokesman said.

In Washington, the Pentagon appeared to reject the Panama-

nian call, saying the U.S. presence in Panama was sanctioned by treaty until 1999.

"The Department of Defence is fully committed to the letter and spirit of the Carter-Torrijos Treaty, and that is the treaty that keeps the U.S. presence there until 1999," Pentagon spokesman Maj. William O'Connell said.

President Jimmy Carter and the then Panamanian leader, Brigadier General Omar Torrijos, signed two treaties — the Panama Canal Treaty and the Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty.

While the latter guaranteed the canal's neutrality after the year 2000, the Panama Canal Treaty governed the operation and defence of the strategic waterway until its handover to Panama on the last day of 1999.

The Southern spokesman in Panama said the treaty did not specifically mention troop deployment.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the department had no direct knowledge of any plans by Panama to oust the U.S. Southern Command.

The White House had no immediate official comment.

Noriega, Panama's de facto leader since 1983, has said he was being prosecuted because he would not cooperate with a U.S. plan to invade Nicaragua. He has denied all the charges against him.

In his television address he said that since previous pressure by the United States had not worked, Washington was now using

"indictment diplomacy."

Noriega has taken a firm stand against heavy U.S. pressure to step down following unrest sparked last June when his former second-in-command, Roberto Diaz Herrera, accused him of drug trafficking and political murder.

In his speech, Noriega displayed documents he said were letters from U.S. and international drug control agencies praising Panama for its role in fighting the trafficking of illegal drugs.

He also called for honest democratic elections, scheduled for May 1989, to go ahead as planned and promised that "whoever got the most votes would win."

In Washington, U.S. officials said former U.S. National Security Council Adviser John Poindexter talked with Noriega during a disputed December 1985 meeting about stopping drug-running, not about invading Nicaragua.

Poindexter's principal message during the meeting was a demand that Noriega curb drug smuggling, the officials said, denying that the former national security adviser had sought Panamanian cooperation in a U.S. plan to invade Nicaragua.

Noriega's comments, made in a television interview broadcast Sunday, drew sharp denials Monday from the White House and the State Department.

Marlin Fitzwater, the spokesman for President Ronald Reagan, said Noriega's comments lacked credibility because of his legal problems.

"Noriega's willing to say anything at this point," he said. "These are just the idle charges of a man indicted for drug-running."

Dole, Gephardt triumph in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Senator Bob Dole scored a convincing triumph in Iowa's Republican presidential caucuses Monday night while Pat Robertson dropped a faltering Vice President George Bush into third place. Richard Gephardt edged Paul Simon to win a seven-man Democratic race.

With 70 per cent of Democratic caucuses reporting in the first big test of the 1988 presidential campaign, Gephardt, a congressman from the neighbouring state of Missouri had 27 per cent of the total and Simon, a Senator from Illinois, another Iowa neighbour, had 24 per cent.

The Iowa caucuses are regarded as the first significant test of candidates' appeal in this year's race to replace President Ronald Reagan, even though the largely rural state in the heart of the heavily agricultural Great Plains region contributes only a small number of delegates to the national conventions that nominate the major parties' candidates.

Michael Dukakis, the governor of Massachusetts, a heavily industrialised New England state, was third in the Democratic race with 21 per cent. Jesse Jackson, the only black candidate from either party, bested Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt for fifth.

Even further back in the pack was Gary Hart with scarcely 1 per cent of the total, a severe blow to his attempt to resuscitate his candidacy. He had dropped out of the race for several months last following revelations of his extramarital dalliance with a model. Hart was catapulted to national prominence with a strong performance in the 1984 Iowa caucuses.

The seventh Democratic candidate, Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, did not campaign in Iowa.

With Republican returns nearly complete, Dole had 37 per cent, Robertson 25 per cent and Bush 19 per cent.

Dole aides said the results were a major embarrassment for Bush, but Bush brushed off suggestions that his campaign was mortally wounded.

"I'm a fighter... I'm not going to be sinking around," he said. Opinion polls have said he would be the leader in next week's primary election in New Hampshire, the first of the 32 states in which delegates are chosen by direct balloting.

The results of Monday's caucuses do not translate directly into the number of Iowa delegates a candidate will have.

To round out the Republican pack, New York congressman Jack Kemp tallied 11 per cent, Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont had 7 per cent, and former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who eschewed campaigning in Iowa, scored less than 1 per cent.

Dole's showing was roughly in line with pre-caucuses polls. But the same polls had shown Bush being well ahead of Robertson.

Robertson, a former Christian television Evangelist, said his showing was a victory for voters "who wanted us to restore the greatness of America through moral strength."

Solidarity's National Executive Commission, headed by Lech Walesa, issued a statement accusing Romanian Communist authorities Monday of responding to workers' protests in the city of Brasov in November by "repression which covered hundreds of people."

"Solidarity protests against this repression," said the statement, which has read over the telephone by the union's spokesman Janusz Onysiewicz.

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Satellite launched in key SDI missile tracking test

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A 6,000-pound (2,720-kilogramme) research satellite tracked 15 mock Soviet nuclear missiles around the globe Tuesday in a major test for the "Star Wars" plan to build a missile shield in space.

Seven sensors on the satellite and hundreds at ground stations gathered data that could help determine if it is feasible to build a split-second response system in space and whether it could distinguish a real missile from a decoy.

The \$250 million exercise began Monday evening with the launch of a two-stage Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral. The entire second stage shot into orbit more than 250 miles (400 kilometres) above the earth. Within four hours, it had deployed all 15 simulated Soviet rockets and began the first of 200 tracking manoeuvres like those that would be needed for an orbiting battle station.

"Star Wars," formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is President Ronald Reagan's controversial programme to build a space-based missile-

defence system. Proponents say that it could nullify the threat of long-range nuclear attacks, but opponents say it is technically infeasible and that the orbiting platforms could be used to launch missile attacks on other countries.

After the first few hours, officials said they were elated with results. They promised to provide preliminary results of the complex mission after it ended later Tuesday, but said it would be 10 days before all the data could be assembled.

"We will have a suite of sensors looking at 15 objects over many orbits," Gordon Smith, deputy director of the Strategic Defence Initiative Office, said at a news conference. "Altogether we're very, very pleased with the start."

The office said four of the payloads contain motors that were to be fired to simulate a Soviet rocket as it climbs off a launch pad. The 11 others were to play the roles of Soviet missiles coasting through space before releasing multiple nuclear warheads.

Naval exercises to be timed for start of Seoul Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will conduct naval exercises off the coast of South Korea next fall as part of a campaign to deter North Korea from attempting to disrupt the summer Olympic Games, administration sources have said.

The sources, who insisted they not be identified, said the United States believes the decision by the Soviet Union to participate in the games has reduced the possibility that North Korea will take any military action during the contests.

"But we don't mind sending a little reinforcing signal, and the South Koreans would like it, too," said one official.

The sources said the plan calls for one aircraft carrier and a battle group of escorting warships to move into the Sea of Japan for exercises during the games, which are scheduled for late September and early October in Seoul.

In addition, aerial and satellite reconnaissance of the region will be stepped up, the sources said.

Some 40,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea, and no plans are being made to send in additional troops, one official said. There is a chance, however, that a small number of additional air force planes might rotate through the country during the time of the games, the source said.

"Basically, we just don't want the North Koreans to forget we're there and that we're even more ready than usual," said another official.

Last month, South Korea and the United States announced they were going ahead with their annual "team spirit" exercises despite protests by North Korea.

That exercise, starting this month and running to early May, will involve 60,000 U.S. military personnel and 140,000 South Korean troops. A U.S. Navy battle group consisting of an aircraft carrier and escorting warships will join the exercise along with U.S. Air Force planes and units, according to the Pentagon.

India becomes Asia's 2nd nuclear maritime power

NEW DELHI (R) — India has become Asia's second nuclear maritime power — but not with the class of Soviet nuclear submarine at first reported, foreign naval experts said Tuesday.

National newspapers said India had leased a Soviet Victor 1 class boat powered by two nuclear reactors.

But photographs of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the welcoming ceremony last Wednesday clearly show him standing on a cruise missile Charlie 1 class boat which has only one reactor, the experts said.

Foreign journalists and military attaches were not invited to Vishakhapatnam Naval Base on the Bay of Bengal to witness the handover but the Indian press identified the boat as a Victor 1 class and reeled off its specifications.

Indian officials declined to identify the boat or comment on why the press had carried the reports.

The Japanese Kyodo News Agency identified the vessels as a Charlie 1 class boat when it sailed past Japan for India last month from the eastern Soviet port of Vladivostok.

The government has released few details about the submarine. Renamed INS Chakra, which has been leased from Moscow for training purposes.

Defence analysts expect India to acquire at least three more nuclear submarines as part of its plan to turn its navy into a blue-water fleet capable of projecting the country's power throughout the Indian Ocean.

The acquisition of the submarine, which is not armed with nuclear missiles, makes India the second Asian nation after China with nuclear-powered warships.

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Managua: Postponement of talks to cost lives

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The Sandinista government said Monday that the contra rebels' postponement of peace talks scheduled for this week will cost lives.

"We are going to wait for (formal) word from President Reagan's representatives," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mercedes Borge said in a telephone interview Monday. "Nicaragua is interested in a cease-fire as soon as possible. It is fundamental to avoid more bloodshed, to save lives."

The contras announced at a press conference in Miami Monday that the talks, set for Wednesday in Guatemala, would be put off for "a couple of days or

a few weeks."

The meeting between the rebels and the Sandinistas was to work out details for a cease-fire, a measure outlined in a regional peace plan signed by five Central American presidents last August.

The U.S. Congress last week voted down President Reagan's request for \$36 million in aid for the contras, who have been fighting to oust the Marxist-led Sandinistas since 1981. The Sandinistas refer to the contras as "mercenaries" or Reagan's representatives.

Meanwhile, the contras have been blamed by the government for stepped up attacks against civilians.

The Defence Ministry said re-

bel-planted land mines along a northern road killed 17 people and wounded 18 others riding in a truck near Quilal last week.

On Saturday, the Ministry reported that six people died and 13 suffered injuries in nearby Wiruil when contras hurled a fragmentation grenade into a crowd.

The contras, in a clandestine Radio Liberation broadcast Monday, denied the Saturday-night attack, saying a Sandinista militia member tossed the grenade.

A Sandinista regional commander said Monday that a contra rebel combat chief was slain during a firefight with government troops in the jungles of eastern Nicaragua.

Barre enters presidential race

PARIS (AP) — Former Premier Raymond Barre, the economics professor supported by the centrist faction of France's ruling conservative coalition, announced Monday he will run in the April 24 presidential election.

The announcement puts Barre into the ring with conservative Premier Jacques Chirac and Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme right National Front, all vying for the rightist vote.

Barre's declaration in Lyon,

which he represents in the National Assembly, leaves the Socialists as the only major party without a declared candidate.

The Socialists are waiting for President Francois Mitterrand, 71, to reveal his intentions about seeking a second seven-year term.

Barre, 63, who has remained aloof from political parties, is backed by the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF).

Solidarity supports Romanian protesters

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The outlawed Solidarity trade union has condemned the "repression" of Romanian workers protesting against harsh living conditions and said it would try to help the victims.

Solidarity's National Executive Commission, headed by Lech Walesa, issued a statement accusing Romanian Communist authorities Monday of responding to workers' protests in the city of Brasov in November by "repression which covered hundreds of people."

"Solidarity protests against this repression," said the statement, which has read over the telephone by the union's spokesman Janusz Onysiewicz.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold. ♠A387 ♠J6 ♠962 ♠K83

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—There are those who believe you must rebid the spades to tell partner you have a five-card suit. However, any rebid of spades would show at least a six-card suit and an unbalanced hand with a longer spade suit. Since partner is showing a balanced hand of 10-20 points, your correct bid is a raise to three, no trump.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold. ♠Q9832 ♠762 ♠AJ3 ♠96

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—The same principle applies as in the answer above. If you rebid three spades, you would be showing an unbalanced hand with a longer spade suit. Since partner is showing a balanced hand of 10-20 points, your correct bid is a raise to three, no trump.

Q.3—As South vulnerable, you hold: ♠K76 ♠AJ95 ♠Q1082 ♠46

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—You have found your strain—it is only a question of to what level you should raise. The modern tendency is to treat a jump to three hearts as highly encouraging but not 100 per cent forcing. Since your hand in support of hearts reveals to a full opening bid, you should leap to four hearts.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold. ♠AJ762 ♠95 ♠A107 ♠K83

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—This is a question of partnership style. If you play that you need something better than a dead minimum to rebid two no trump, then your only alternative is two spades. If not, two no trump describes both the strength and shape of your holding.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠K3 ♠KQ10762 ♠AJ ♠72

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—You must count does not express the full value of your hand—after all, you have seven playing tricks. Jump to four hearts. Your partner won't play you for more strength than this since you didn't jump rebid three hearts at your first opportunity.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠KJ9 ♠QJ8 ♠AQ1063 ♠74

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond? A.—Had your long suit been a major, it would be correct to bid it at the one-level. Since it is a minor, however, your most likely destination is no trump, especially since you have stoppers in all the unbid suits. A jump to two no trump describes your hand exactly—a balanced 13-15 points with all unbid suits stopped.

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Olympic bowl explodes during gas tests

CALGARY (R) — A gas explosion damaged the main Olympic bowl in Calgary's McMahon Stadium Monday — five days before its lighting will signal the opening of the Winter Games. No one was injured in the blast, organising committee spokeswoman Terry Bullock told Reuters, but the bowl suffered minor damage. The incident occurred after workers finished installing a gas metre and restored the supply, gas company spokesman Sam McBride told Reuters. "There was more noise than anything else," McBride said. "But there's no structural damage to the cauldron. A few bolts in the upper part may need replacing but we're just relieved no one was hurt and that it was just a minor malfunction." McBride said the dish, due to be ignited by the Olympic flame at Saturday's opening ceremony, would be repaired by the end of the day. He said more tests would be conducted later in the week.

Oman names 1st woman to top post

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — The Arab Gulf state of Oman, where until a few years ago girls were not allowed to go to school or university, has appointed a woman to a senior government post for the first time. Rajeha Ameer, 35, was named under-secretary for planning affairs at the technical secretariat of the State Development Council by royal decree at the weekend. The English-language Oman Daily Observer quoted her as saying: "I'm very happy, not only for myself, but for all women." Ameer, who has three children, said: "It's a big step for us." The sultanate, at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, did not even have schools for girls until 1970. But Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos, using oil revenue, has been slowly moving his long isolated country into the 20th century since he deposed his father 18 years ago. Ameer had to study outside the country, majoring in mathematics in Baghdad. She returned to Oman in 1972 to work as a statistician for the government. Small numbers of Omani women are now employed mainly in government departments and banking. Others work as nurses and teachers.

Schwarzenegger films in Red Square

MOSCOW (AP) — A swaggering Arnold Schwarzenegger, in a gray wool greatcoat, looked every bit the Soviet militiaman he portrays in a movie being filmed in Red Square. Schwarzenegger, puffing on a cigar, talked briefly with reporters Tuesday in a gray, cold mist just before the cameras rolled to film the actor with the famous Soviet landmarks of St. Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum in the background. Real Soviet militiamen stood nearby watching their Hollywood imitation. Gordon Carroll, producer of the movie Red Heat, said he believed it was the first time the Soviets have allowed Americans to film segments for a major motion picture on Red Square. "I think it was due to the openness here and also the fact that the hero is a Soviet militia officer," Carroll said. The movie stars Schwarzenegger as a Soviet police officer who encounters a drug dealer in Moscow, whom he follows to Chicago. The film begins in Moscow, moves to Chicago and winds up in Moscow. It has mainly been shot in Los Angeles, Chicago and Budapest, Hungary, producers said. The movie company, which arrived Sunday, leaves Wednesday. "We love the weather, and we like the people, and we like the city. So far we've had a wonderful time. We ate some caviar and drank some vodka, too," Schwarzenegger said.

Concorde sets trans-Atlantic record

LONDON (AP) — A British Airways Concorde flew from New York to London in two hours, 55 minutes and 15 seconds, setting a record for the fastest trans-Atlantic flight by a commercial aircraft, an airline spokesman has said. The 3,660-mile (5,900-kilometre) flight from New York's Kennedy Airport to London's Heathrow Sunday trimmed 59 seconds off the previous record, set in January 1983, said British Airways spokesman John Chandler. He said Sunday's supersonic flight was helped along by a 200-knot (230-mph) tail wind. There were 42 passengers and nine crew members aboard. The Concorde, with a normal cruising speed of 1,350 mph (2,173 kph), is the only commercial airliner that flies faster than the speed of sound. Capt. Colin Morris, the pilot Sunday, was the first pilot to fly across the Atlantic in under three hours, in 1980.

U.S. denies part in art heist

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The U.S. government has rejected allegations of complicity in the removal from Thailand of an ancient art treasure on display in Chicago, Illinois. The stone lintel of the Hindu God Vishnu disappeared from the Kam-puchean temple of Khao Phanomrung in north eastern Thailand during the 1960s. For more than a decade Thai officials have attempted to have it returned. A letter signed "the people of Thailand" in Monday's editions of the Bangkok Post said the lintel was taken with the use of U.S. military equipment and "spirited abroad... thanks to the special privileges enjoyed by the U.S. forces." The temple is one of several built between the 10th and 15th centuries when the powerful Kam-puchean empire extended into what is now Thailand. The temple has been restored and is to be officially opened in April, prompting the demand for the lintel's return. A U.S. embassy statement said the U.S. government was investigating how the lintel came to be on display at the Art Institute of Chicago. The lintel, it said, is on loan from the Alsdorf Foundation, which apparently purchased it in 1967 from a New York art dealer. The U.S. government "rejects allegations of official American complicity," the release said. "On the contrary we condemn the pillaging of cultural treasures that are a part of any country's heritage and patrimony."

U.N. applies stringent no smoking rules

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations has banned smoking in any work area that is shared with a non-smoker, the staff periodical said Monday. The Secretariat News said the order went into effect on Jan. 1. "The restrictions mandate that there will be no smoking in any shared working area unless the area is occupied exclusively by smokers